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# THE TIMES

WEEKEND  
MONEY  
Pages 25-30

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SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16 1991

45p

Dublin rethink on 'political offences'

## IRA man beats extradition by exploiting law

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

IRELAND is to review its new extradition law after a convicted IRA member exploited a loophole to avoid being returned to jail in Northern Ireland.

The hint of change came as the Irish government faced criticism at home and in Britain over the Dublin Supreme Court's ruling that possessing a machinegun and a rifle was a "political" offence.

The judgment exposed a loophole in the republic's 1987 extradition act that had been identified nearly two years ago. The law, based on the European convention on the suppression of terrorism, allows for a political defence in cases involving non-automatic weapons or where the original convictions are based on possession of weapons or explosives as opposed to intent to kill.

Leading politicians had pointed out that there were flaws in the legislation that could allow IRA suspects to cheat extradition, but Charles Haughey, the prime minister, refused to change it before it had been tested in the courts. Yesterday's hearing was the first real test and Ray Burke,

the justice minister, indicated last night that changes may now be considered. He said the judgment would "receive careful and detailed study, including consideration of appropriate amendments to the existing legislation, should it be necessary".

The controversy has arisen from the cases of three IRA members who were among seven men who escaped from the Crumlin Road jail in Belfast in 1981. They were subsequently caught and jailed for the escape in the republic and when they were released, extradition orders were served so that they could complete their sentences in Northern Ireland.

Yesterday, the supreme court agreed that Paul Magee, who was convicted of murdering an SAS captain, should be extradited. But it refused to send Anthony Sloan and Michael McKee back, saying their arms offences were politically motivated.

The order against Magee could not be carried out because he went on the run last month and is now wanted by Irish police. McKee is being held by the RUC in Northern Ireland having been arrested earlier this month,

but Sloan was allowed to go free.

Besides being sentenced in his absence to 20 years for possessing the guns, Sloan was jailed for five years for false imprisonment. The judges ruled that he could be extradited on that charge, but held that since he had subsequently served a longer sentence in the republic for the escape, it would be "futile" to send him back.

Sloan, aged 37, from Ballymurphy in West Belfast, said afterwards that he was "quite happy" with the ruling, but he criticised the Irish authorities for allowing extradition cases to go ahead. "People come down here to seek political safety and it is denied. You are safer outside Ireland than inside Ireland," he said as he was greeted by supporters including Desmond Ellis, who was cleared of bomb conspiracy charges at the Old Bailey last month.

The court's decision was relayed to Mr Haughey and his ministers at a cabinet meeting and they immediately called for a detailed study of the judgment, which will be discussed at the next Anglo-Irish conference meeting in Dublin next week.

## Major seeks wide backing on EC

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major yesterday sought the widest possible mandate from Conservative MPs for his approach to the Maastricht summit by inviting them next week to deliver an explicit rejection of a federal Europe while endorsing an agreement that allows Britain to stay at the heart of the European Community and to shape its future.

In a move that left Conservative Euro-sceptics in a dilemma over voting tactics for the two-day Commons debate, Mr Major effectively asked them to back a negotiating stance that would clearly allow him to sign a treaty permitting the EC to move towards economic union and a single currency and extend its influence into other areas.

The most senior Euro-doubters, including Margaret Thatcher, Nicholas Ridley and Norman Tebbit, oppose both developments. Mr Major, however, invited them to approve them in the context of a shrewdly-crafted motion that asks the Commons to back an agreement at Maastricht that rejects a "federal Europe", the outcome they fear most of all.

The sceptics were noticeably more cautious than the enthusiasts last night in initial reactions to the motion, which asks the government to work for an agreement that "enables this country to exert the greatest influence on the economic evolution of the Community" while preserving the right of Parliament to decide at a future date whether to join a single currency.

By stating that Community competence should be developed only "on those issues which cannot be handled more effectively at national level" and specifically oppos-



Sir Norman: whole party can back motion

ing an extension of Community influence in social policy, the motion implicitly accepts that the government may have to accept an extension of competence in other areas.

Sceptics were also concerned that the motion gives them no opportunity to vote on extending the powers of the European parliament, on which the government made a limited concession this week.

Mr Tebbit refrained from early reaction and others said that they wanted to consider the motion over the weekend. One sceptic said that it seemed to seek a blank cheque. Others said that they would wait to hear Mr Major's speech before deciding how to vote.

The motion was welcomed by Sir Norman Fowler, new chairman of the Tory backbenchers' European affairs committee, as "a declaration that the whole party can unite".

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The Northern Ireland Office described the ruling as "a disappointment" and Unionists reacted angrily to what they said was another example of the Ireland's equivocal attitude to republican paramilitaries. David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist security spokesman, brushed aside suggestions that it would change the law. "Charles Haughey is just going to delay and delay as much as he can and put up as many obstacles as he can in the way of extradition," he said. The Rev Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist leader, agreed, saying the prime minister and the attorney-general were whistling in the dark if they expected to get people extradited from Mr Haughey's regime.

In the republic, Mr Haughey and Mr Burke were accused of acting when it was too late, but opposition parties said they would support any amendment that would close the loophole. Sean Barrett, justice spokesman for Fine Gael, said changes should have been made months ago and should be put in place immediately.

Michael McDowell, chairman of Mr Haughey's Progressive Democrat coalition partners, said the shortcomings he had pointed out 18 months ago had now been shown to exist. "It suggests that the next time we set our minds to amending the law of extradition, we should do a comprehensive job and make sure that there aren't any loopholes of this kind left."

Ivor Stanbrook, chairman of the Conservative backbench Northern Ireland committee, said the Irish government could hardly be blamed for adopting European legislation with clear gaps in it. But he criticised what he saw as a lack of political will by Mr Haughey's government to make the necessary changes.

More troops, page 2



Legal victory: Anthony Sloan, right, leaving the Supreme Court in Dublin yesterday with Dessie Ellis

## Shots fired at UN craft during Dubrovnik rescue

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN ZAGREB AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A NEW ceasefire to take effect today was announced in Croatia as a hovercraft sent to evacuate children from the besieged Croatian city of Dubrovnik berthed safely yesterday at its port after shots were fired across its bows.

The UN children's fund, Unicef, which chartered the vessel with money provided by the European Community, denied that the craft had been fired on by a Yugoslav naval vessel. It said warning shots were fired across the hovercraft's bows as it approached Dubrovnik because the naval vessel was unsure of its status.

But before the new truce was announced, Yugoslav naval vessels bombarded the port of Split further north along the coast, hitting ships and buildings. Fierce fighting also continued yesterday as federal forces launched a fresh

assault on the besieged towns of Vukovar and nearby Vinkovci in eastern Croatia.

David Chater, an ITN reporter, was seriously wounded by a sniper's bullet in Vukovar. Mr Chater, aged 38, was flown to a military hospital in Belgrade and was undergoing surgery for a stomach wound, ITN said. His condition was not critical.

The latest ceasefire between the Yugoslav army and Croatia is due to take effect at 6pm today, a European Community official announced. Dirk Van Houten said the two sides reaffirmed the terms of a lapse ceasefire agreed on October 18. Under this agreement Croatia would allow troops to leave federal barracks that it is blockading on its territory.

"We are in agreement about the execution of The Hague

agreement of the 18th of October, on the question of deblocking military garrisons and their evacuation from the territory of Croatia," Mr Van Houten said. "We also agreed on the terms for a ceasefire to be arranged this time by military people and which will take into account troop movements."

Mr Van Houten was talking after negotiations between Yugoslav army General Andrija Raseta and Croatian officials led by Imra Agotic, the deputy commander of the Croatian national guard, and Mate Granic, the deputy prime minister.

General Raseta confirmed that he had offered to withdraw all forces from the republic within a month if Croatia would lift its blockade of federal bases there. "If Croatia would let us withdraw, we would leave tomorrow," he said. "We are all sick of the war."

However, Lieutenant-General Maro Negovanovic, the assistant defence minister, said that the army should not pull back from its positions in Croatia even if UN forces arrive. He pledged that the army would remain "until a political solution to Yugoslavia's problems have been found". He added: "We will win what we want to win and defend it with a sabre."

The ferry Slavija carrying EC observers and 3,000 refugees to safety from Dubrovnik was due to dock at Pula yesterday afternoon after being diverted from Split. Carrying more than twice its normal load and swaying violently, the ferry left Dubrovnik at full speed fearing attack from federal gunboats.

Television film shot aboard showed small children screaming and vomiting while weary parents slumped in the gangways. A baby boy was born on board during the four-hour journey in rough seas.

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Letters, page 15

## Russians strive to control minerals

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

CAPPING an extraordinary week in the death of the Soviet Union, the Russian Federation, under the leadership of Boris Yeltsin, yesterday took further strides to assert its growing power by staking its claim to control the disposal of all oil, gold and precious metals from its territory.

Only two days earlier, it was announced that the Soviet Union's gold reserves and debt would be divided among the republics, while on Thursday President Gorbachev conceded defeat in his attempt to save the Soviet Union as a centralised state and The Union of Sovereign States, a confederative state, was born.

Russia also demands a decisive say in the negotiation of any new foreign credits by Moscow. Russia's deputy prime minister, Yegor Gaidar,

said that Russia was prepared to "take responsibility" for all the Soviet Union's debts up to November 15 to preserve the good name of the Soviet Union, but would acknowledge new debts only if it had taken part in the negotiations. It was not immediately clear whether this meant that Russia would assume responsibility for actual servicing and repayment, or whether it was volunteering to act as debt-collector.

Mr Yeltsin announced a list of presidential decrees and government resolutions that would form the basis of Russia's economic reform programme. The measures, not yet published, include the

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## Inflation lowest since 1988

By COLIN NARBROUGH

INFLATION dropped to an annual rate of 3.7 per cent in October, its lowest since March 1988, according to the latest government figures. (The September figure was 4.1 per cent.) The 13-month run of falls will probably end this month, however. The pound's weakness is also likely to deter the Chancellor from reducing base rate for the time being.

Mr Lambert welcomed the inflation slowdown. He made clear, however, that maintaining the pound's position in the exchange-rate mechanism was the "first priority".

John Smith, shadow chancellor, said the price of the cut in inflation had been "terribly high", with 750,000 more unemployed and record levels of business failures.

Business, page 23

## Saturday Review

SNAP HAPPY



Marilyn Monroe, says the photographer Eve Arnold, could transform her looks completely—even in the back of a taxi.

Saturday Review

## WEEKEND TIMES

ALLO TERRY



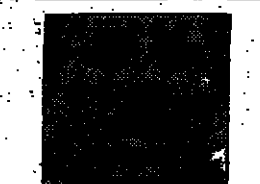
French restaurants can now be measured by a new standard: the Terry, named after Sir Terence Courran. Jonathan Meades—whose column appears for the first time today in Weekend Times—explains all.

OH, MR VIC



"You wouldn't let it lie" and similar catchphrases have made Vic Reeves a hit on every campus in the country. What happened to rebellion? Weekend Times

DREAM OF SUMMER



Ian Botham breaks new ground in 1991 with Durham's elevation to first-class cricket status. Full fixture list Page 33

## Jamaica..!

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# More troops called up to tackle rise in sectarian killings

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE army, in an attempt to combat the surge in sectarian violence in Northern Ireland, yesterday called up hundreds more troops to full-time duty in the province.

In what the army called a "short-term measure" in support of the police, which is expected to be reviewed next week, part-time members of three Ulster Defence Regiment battalions were called up and were expected to go on duty immediately.

The move followed the revenge murders of three men, two Roman Catholics and a Protestant, by the outlawed loyalist Ulster Volunteer Force near Craigavon, Co

Armagh, on Thursday night. The killings, which brought the death toll to seven in two days, followed the IRA murders of four men in Belfast on Wednesday.

Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, who took the call-up decision in consultation with police and the army, said that he was also considering calling an extra battalion of up to 650 men to the province from mainland Britain. This would follow the movement of 100 extra regular troops to Northern Ireland on Thursday and redeployment of 200 men in the province to duty in Belfast.

The soldiers involved in the UDR call-up number about 1,400 and are from battalions based in Co Antrim, in Belfast itself and at Craigavon.

The new deployment was welcomed by Unionist politicians. Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, said that it showed the UDR's value. However, Brian Feeney, an SDLP councillor in Belfast, described the move as a "top to the wilder demands" of some Unionist leaders.

The Craigavon killings bring the death toll in Northern Ireland this year to 84, eight more than for the whole of last year. According to police, the men killed were driving along a country road in separate cars on their way

home after a late shift at the factory where they worked.

They were overtaken by a Ford Granada, which then stopped. Men got out and, using a red torch similar to those used by the army and the police, flagged the cars to a halt. Two gunmen then emerged from the Granada, walked past the first stationary vehicle, and opened fire on the driver and the passenger in the second vehicle, both Roman Catholics. At that point, the driver of the car behind, a Protestant, tried to pull out and drive away, but the gunmen opened fire on him too.

The victims, all from Co Armagh, were Desmond Rodgers, a Catholic, of Craigavon; Fergus Magee, aged 28, a Catholic from Lurgan; and John Davery, aged 27, a Protestant, also from Lurgan. The engineering factory where they worked closed yesterday as a mark of respect for them.

The average RUC constable can expect annual pay of more than £30,000, it was disclosed yesterday. Brian Mawhinney, the Northern Ireland minister, told the Commons that the figure included allowances and average overtime pay. A constable can expect basic pay of £17,000, a Northern Ireland allowance of £1,725, housing and other allowances of about £5,000 and average overtime pay of £6,000.

## London NHS myth exposed

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

LONDON has no more hospital beds for its population than the rest of England once socio-economic, demographic and other variables have been taken into account, according to research presented by health policy analysts yesterday.

The research, by the King's Fund Institute, partly undermines the growing consensus that London has too many beds and too many resources compared with other areas - a view which led to the setting up of a government enquiry into the capital's health services last month.

Resources and medical staff costs are also only marginally higher in London than other parts of the country if like is compared with like, the study says.

However, it suggests that teaching hospitals are responsible for the relatively high costs of services in inner-city areas. The average cost per case in a London teaching hospital was £1,052 on 1989-90 figures, compared with £531 for a non-teaching hospital.

Data on morbidity and mortality also show that Londoners as a whole are no more ill than people living in other parts of the country, and do not make any heavier use of health services.

Ken Judge, the institute's director, said: "Primarily because of the concentration of medical education in London, the capital appears to have too many expensive hospital services in relation to the relative needs of its resident population."

## Riot-torn estate denied cash help

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE government will not help to repair riot damage on the Meadow Well estate, Tyne-side, unless the local council puts the interests of tenants first, Michael Heseltine said yesterday.

In a letter to Brian Flood, leader of North Tyneside council, the environment secretary accused the council of turning its back on tenants and using the estate as a "dump" for problem families.

His criticism followed similar comments made during a visit to the estate on Wednesday. Rejecting the council's assertion that poll tax capping was to blame for poor conditions on the estate, Mr Heseltine said that spending by the council had risen steadily from £110.75 million in 1988 to £137.93 million this year. He added that the residents he had spoken to felt badly let down and ignored by the council.

The council had said that it wanted help under the £412 million city challenge programme, but Mr Heseltine wrote: "I want to make it plain that there can be no prospect of new resources until it is clear that the authority is working in full co-operation with residents and there is clear evidence of effective management."

Mr Flood said yesterday: "By treating the council in this way Mr Heseltine can only add to the problem not seek to solve it."

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Face to face: finishing touches being put yesterday to the head of the 9ft statue of Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris

## Statue to get royal unveiling

By JOHN YOUNG

THE controversial statue of Sir Arthur Harris, commander-in-chief of Bomber Command in the second world war, is to be unveiled by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother on May 31.

The statue was commissioned by the Royal Air Force Bomber Command Association, which has launched an appeal for £100,000, and will stand next to the statue of Lord Dowding, commander in chief of Fighter Command, in front of St Clement Danes church in the Strand, London.

The decision to commemorate "Bomber" Harris 50 years after his appointment in 1942 has aroused fierce debate in the correspondence columns of *The Times* and other newspapers. Objectors, who include clergy in Britain and mayors of German cities such as Dresden which were heavily bombed, say that the statue confers a retrospective blessing on a strategy regarded by some as morally repugnant. Supporters say that the statue is a tribute not just to a great wartime commander who was carrying out orders, but to the thousands who fought under his command.

*The Times* declared recently that the policy which Sir Arthur advocated was a severe blot on Britain's war record. However, making him a scapegoat had diminished the reputation of his brave men.

## Lockerbie charges

## Bush toughens line on Libya

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Bush administration, which on Thursday accused Colonel Gaddafi's Libyan government of direct involvement in the Lockerbie bombing, plans to demand Libya's complete renunciation of terrorism early next week, and to take punitive international measures if that demand is not met.

President Bush is expected to require Libya's full co-operation in the Lockerbie investigation, an end to its support for numerous terrorist organisations and Libyan-based training camps and the expulsion of the two Libyan intelligence agents against whom the British and American authorities have laid charges.

Sources said that if Libya has not complied with these demands within a reasonable period, Washington will seek Libya's economic isolation through such measures as an embargo on Libyan oil, a ban on all air links with Libya and possibly an end to the sale of manufactured goods to that country. The US has long maintained an economic embargo against Libya.

The idea is to force Libya to renounce terrorism or pay a far heavier price than hitherto, one that will also deter other state-sponsors of terrorism. Libyan terrorism could not be ignored and the international community had to act to protect itself, Marlin

Fitzwater, the White House press secretary, said.

America and Britain have briefed allies in detail on the extent of Libyan terrorism and are beginning to lobby hard for a co-ordinated international response in the light of Thursday's revelations.

Officials say they are encouraged by the initial response, particularly from

countries like Italy and Germany which have strong trade links with Libya.

Libya yesterday denied involvement in the Lockerbie bombing and demanded that the British and American charges be investigated by a neutral body. The State Department said the Libyan proposal was an obvious attempt to stall.

## Is Gaddafi the only one to blame?

IS WASHINGTON using Lockerbie to reward friends and punish enemies? Libya undoubtedly has sponsored acts of terrorism, though mostly against Gaddafi's opponents abroad, and it may well have been involved in Lockerbie. But Western intelligence agencies have long suspected the attack was a joint venture with Iran and Syria, with Libyans as the lowest-level thugs involved.

The US State Department has persistently pinned a number of outrages solely on Libya when there was some evidence that it had colluded with others.

Consider the immediate cause for the US bombing of Tripoli and Benghazi in April 1986. It followed the attack ten days before on a West Berlin disco that killed two people, an American serviceman and a Turk.

The US State Department said that it had irrefutable evidence that Libyans working for the People's Bureau in East Berlin had planned the attack. This evidence was based on alleged phone calls from the bureau to Tripoli, intercepted by the British, decoded and sent to the Americans.

However, according to *Der Spiegel* on April 21, 1988, there were no telephone transcripts and Berlin intelligence had only suspicions of Libyan involvement. They also suspected rival groups of drug dealers. One wonders if the US ever did hand over to the German police the transcripts of the phone calls.

The US State Department

also blames Libya for the December 1985 attacks at Rome and Vienna airports that killed 16 civilians, including five Americans. Investigators in Rome and Vienna indicated that the attacks may have been the result of co-operation between the Syrian and Libyan governments. But it was the latter that bore the brunt of US reprisals.

Syria and Iran are major regional players that Washington has been courting as it carves out a new sphere of influence in the Middle East. And pointing the finger for Lockerbie at Tehran or Damascus would certainly hinder efforts to free the remaining Western hostages in Lebanon.

Official figures on expected growth in households are unreliable that they should no longer be used to dictate the number of homes needed, the Council for the Protection of Rural England says in a report published today. Envisaging a department forecast over the past six years on the number of households expected by 2001 have varied by over a million, the council claims.

**Jail decision**

The governor of Brixton prison has decided against bringing disciplinary action against four officers who were investigated after the escape of two IRA suspects in July. The Home Office said that Andrew Coyle made the decision after examining a report on the escape of Nessim Quinn and Pearce McAnulty, who fled using a gun smuggled to them in a shoe.

Gaddafi: chiefly targets his opponents abroad

## £64m pledged for landscapes

By MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

SPENDING on the conservation of vulnerable countryside is to be increased more than fivefold, the government announced yesterday. Millions of pounds more will be spent on promoting research into organic agriculture and helping farmers to market their products.

John Gummer, the agriculture minister, announced the details after a Downing Street meeting between the prime minister, farmers' leaders and supermarket chiefs. He said that annual expenditure on protecting environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) - where farmers are offered incentives to preserve hedges and stone walls and return arable land to pasture - would rise from £12 million to £64.6 million by 1994-5. The number of ESAs in England would be increased from ten to 22 and new areas would be created

in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In addition, £3.5 million would be spent on research into organic farming and grants worth £5.4 million would be made available, also over three years, to encourage farmers to form larger and more professionally managed co-operatives. Mr Gummer said that the government would meet half the costs of setting up such groups.

Mr Gummer released a 40-page document, *Our Farming Future*, setting out the government's approach to agriculture for the next decade. It identifies the fragmentation of British farming and the small proportion of produce marketed through co-operatives as chief causes of Britain's £6 billion trade deficit on food and drink.

John Major called the meeting because of growing

## Firm fined over sewer deaths

A building company was fined £50,000 plus £15,000 costs yesterday for failing to protect three workers who were killed by fumes in a drain. Two of the men, teenage brothers, died trying to save the other man, Middlessex Guildhall Crown Court was told.

Paul Richardson, 17, a trainee electrician; David Richardson, 19, a trainee plumber, both of Bethnal Green, east London, and Steven Hammond, 32, an electrician of Hornchurch, Essex, were killed while clearing a drain at Watney Market, Stepney, east London, in September 1990.

Floyd Construction, a subsidiary of S.C. Holdings based at Bow, east London, admitted failing to provide employees with adequate equipment.

## Last battle for Naseby lost

Work on the proposed M1-A1 link at the site of the Battle of Naseby in Northamptonshire is expected to start on Monday after a High Court judge refused to grant a judicial review to 33 protesters who own 1 sq ft plots of land.

Mr Justice Popplewell said that the application over compulsory purchase orders was intended to frustrate the statutory process and was an abuse of the process of the court. He anticipated it would be the "last battle to be fought" in the battle to save the 1645 site of Civil War fighting.

## Blandford leaves jail

The Marquess of Blandford was yesterday freed from Oxford prison after serving 37 days of an 84-day sentence for motoring offences. The 36-year-old heir to the Duke of Marlborough was collected by his wife, Becky, who was allowed to drive into the jail. It is understood that Lord Blandford received remission for good behaviour, amounting to half his sentence, and recognition of a day in police custody. He was due out on Monday but, because there are no weekend releases, was let out yesterday.

## Pub shooting

Police are hunting a man who pulled out a shotgun during an argument in a pub on the Old Kent Road, south London, early yesterday and shot his victim in the leg after drinking with him all evening. Paddy Donagan, aged 23, is under police guard in a stable unit clinic in hospital. Police said that Mr Donagan was with a group of men who had spent the evening together in the Green Man pub.

## Doubt on homes

Official figures on expected growth in households are unreliable that they should no longer be used to dictate the number of homes needed, the Council for the Protection of Rural England says in a report published today. Envisaging a department forecast over the past six years on the number of households expected by 2001 have varied by over a million, the council claims.

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**DOW'S PORT**

From THE GREAT AGE of Port Drinking.



## Final visit to collect belongings after marathon hearing upholds incompetence charge

## Dismissed teacher may go to tribunal

By LOUISE HIDALGO

A TRADITIONALIST primary school teacher who was dismissed for incompetence after a marathon hearing stretching into the early hours yesterday made a last visit to the school where he taught for 13 years to collect his belongings.

Jack Smith has been banned from his classroom after a hearing by school governors announced at 2.40am yesterday that it would uphold an earlier decision to dismiss him. Mr Smith will receive his full salary until April.

As he arrived armed with dustbin liners at New Milton Junior School at 5pm yesterday to collect his personal effects, Mr Smith said he spent his first day away from school moping and choked up. "I feel as if I have had my arms and legs cut off."

Three pupils were absent from the Hampshire school yesterday, apparently in protest at the outcome of Mr Smith's appeal for reinstatement. Children were told at morning assembly that he would not be returning. One parent, who did not want to be named, said that she was making arrangements to send her children to another school.

Mr Smith, aged 59, had been close to tears as he emerged after the ten-and-a-

half-hour hearing at Southampton's education authority headquarters, which began at 2pm on Thursday. "I am devastated by the decision of the governors to dismiss me from a job I have loved and which I have done to the best of my ability."

He was yesterday staying with friends at an unknown location. He said he spent the day "looking at the clock every ten minutes and wondering what the children are doing".

Mr Smith also saw his solicitor to discuss whether he should now take the case to an industrial tribunal. He is expected to make a decision in the next few days.

John Crisp, the school's headmaster, said in a statement that the case, which has caused heated debate, had been misrepresented as a battle between traditional and progressive education methods. "Any school teacher who cannot adapt to a balanced approach and who only used one method of teaching would be depriving children of a full and rounded curriculum."

He said that Mr Smith had been offered professional support by himself and the previous headmaster whom Mr Crisp succeeded three years ago. "It was only Mr Smith's rejection of, or in-

ability to reach, the targets set which led to the disciplinary hearing."

Peter Coles, Hampshire's education officer, said that teachers were rarely dismissed but there had been complaints over a long period of time about Mr Smith. Teachers normally responded to requests to amend their style but "he has shown no receptiveness to that and we regret we had to reach the stage of dismissing him".

Mr Smith's supporters, who have held him up as an advocate of traditional teaching methods, the three Rs and of discipline, said they would continue the fight if Mr Smith wished. "The parents are behind him all the way in what he decides to do," said Robert Mayhew, who with his wife has led the campaign for Mr Smith.

However, as life at the 330-pupil school began to return to normal yesterday after weeks of media attention and pickets in support of Mr Smith, other parents for the first time openly voiced their concern about his teaching.

Wendy Blake, who sat in on Mr Smith's classes for eight months as a voluntary helper, said she had initially been a supporter of Mr Smith because of his belief in the three Rs and discipline. "But



Smith: spent first day away "looking at the clock every ten minutes and wondering what the children are doing"

I became so upset to see children in tears because of his destructive criticism." Her own daughter, she said, had been a victim of the hierarchical system of "champions" and "slaves" — a reward system for pupils who could recite their times tables.

Mary Drake, chairman of the governors, cited the sys-

tem as being a general criticism that had been part of the evidence against Mr Smith. Mrs Drake, a retired headmistress, said: "Things change and you have to modify. If you don't recognise that you have a problem." She said she had received letters of complaint from parents about Mr Smith's teaching, and added:

"No teacher is a good teacher if they cannot work with their colleagues."

Meanwhile, as he stood outside the school for the last time yesterday, surrounded by about 30 parents and children who had come to support him, Mr Smith said that public opinion was moving towards his way of teaching. He added: "The worst

will come when I am on my own and wake up at three in the morning and remember."

Asked about criticism that he had favoured more able children, and discriminated against less able, he pointed to the dozen or so children gathered around him. "Ask them," he said.

Inspectors' choice, page 7

## Husband jailed six years for raping wife

THE first husband to appear in court for raping his wife after the recent House of Lords ruling that marital rape was an offence was jailed for six years yesterday.

The man, aged 23, a South African engineer, admitted two violent sex attacks on his wife, aged 26. In one, the man, living in east London, bound his wife and forced her at knifepoint to have sex. She noted the occasions in her diary that she was subjected to violent sex, the Central Criminal Court was told.

The couple married in 1989 to enable the husband to stay in Britain. However, the relationship deteriorated after the wife had an abortion last year and they separated. After his arrest, the man admitted raping his wife on six occasions.

On April 5, the date of the second offence, he telephoned and asked his wife to go to his flat. When she refused to resume living with him he became angry, locked the door, gagged and bound her. He held a kitchen knife against her neck and threatened to kill her before raping her.

Judge Richardson said: "I am prepared to accept you may have believed that you were entitled to have sex with your wife, as the law then stood, against her will. But I do not believe for one moment you considered that you were entitled to use the violence you did to achieve that end."

## Salmonella alert after coconut test

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA

THE health department issued a contamination alert to local environmental health officers yesterday after the discovery of salmonella in a coconut food product, while a food company distributing products contaminated with listeria went into receivership.

Traces of salmonella were detected during routine tests by the London port health authority on Malaysian desiccated coconut imported for use by Pride Oil Products, of Wembley, in its creamed coconut product, Pride Cream Coconut. The product is distributed to 300 wholesalers throughout Britain and is widely used in Asian restaurants. The health department said that the product was not marked with batch codes and so a full recall was essential.

Raju Mashru, Pride's legal adviser, said: "We had no reason to suspect our supplier, who is very reputable. This is a voluntary withdrawal by us." The company, he said, had managed to recall 80 per cent of stock sent out in October and November. "We have put out a new batch which is very clearly marked as such," he said.

Mr Mashru said that the company had not heard about the test results until a month after samples were taken on October 8. The port health authority said that the delay reflected the workload of the testing laboratory. A spokes-

woman said: "It wouldn't be our place to comment, because we ourselves don't do the testing."

Supermarket chains yesterday warned shoppers that three products of Norfolk Smokehouses, of Worthing, north, Suffolk, may be contaminated with listeria, after tests required by the Food Safety Act. The company, which is said to have cash-flow difficulties, went into receivership yesterday at its directors' request. Mark Palios and Jonathan Sisson, of Cork Gully, have been appointed receivers.

Following advice from the health department on November 8, Safeway, Asda, Waitrose, and Wm Morrison removed the suspect products from shelves and urged shoppers to return stock. The department said that symptoms of listeria could take two or more days to appear, but that the chance of infected foods having reached the public was remote. A spokesman said: "The products have been taken off the shelves. Supermarkets can identify things extremely quickly by batch numbers."

The products, bearing the Norfolk Smokehouses label, are Vegetable Terrine, sold by Asda, Wm Morrison, and Waitrose; Vegetable and Nut Slice, sold by Asda and Waitrose; and smoked chicken portions, sold by Safeway.

Waitrose said that it had removed the products on November 8. Safeway said it withdrew the chicken dish on Wednesday "as a purely precautionary measure".

## Old mare costs seller dear

A WOMAN who thought she had bought a ten-year-old hunter discovered the horse was twice that age and so lame that it ended up in a knacker's yard, a court was told yesterday.

The horse, called Elizabeth Tudor, was advertised in *Horse and Hound* as a thoroughbred mare that had bred superb foals. However, the buyer found that when she mounted the horse it was so lame it could take only small steps, magistrates in Malvern, Hereford and Worcester, were told.

Ginnie Griffiths, aged 51, a horse dealer of Cinderford, Gloucestershire, admitted two charges under the Trades Description Act of applying a false description to a horse and supplying it to Joanne Dowding, aged 44, a farmer of Castlemorton, near Malvern.

Beverley Bell, for Hereford and Worcester trading standards department, said Mrs Dowding paid £1,600 for the mare. Two veterinary surgeons who examined the horse's teeth estimated its age at between 17 and 20.

Mrs Dowding was ordered off Mrs Griffiths's premises when she tried to get her money back and eventually the horse had to be put down. The court was told that Mrs Dowding had been awarded £1,400 compensation in a county court action against Mrs Griffiths.

Mrs Griffiths was given a conditional discharge on both charges yesterday, but was ordered to pay £2,000 costs. She was also fined £100 for failing to surrender to bail.



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## THE SUNDAY TIMES Winston and Clemmie

Accusing Cecil Beaton of all manner of deception and betrayal over the unflattering photographs of her, Clementine was soon in a state of near-hysteria. But her rage went as swiftly as it came, and Beaton was left with a



pathetic middle-aged woman on his hands.

"Really it's too damnable," she wailed. "It isn't as if my life has been too easy. I haven't — but when I married Winston, he loved me." Beaton took her hand: "But he still does. We all know that!"

Citadel of the Heart: Winston and the Churchill Dynasty, by John Pearson — first exclusive extract in The Sunday Times tomorrow

## Waking up to the perils of snoring

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

SNORERS may do more damage than deprive those who have to endure them of a good night's sleep, according to researchers who claim to have found a link between snoring and car safety.

Men who snore are almost six times more likely to admit having come close to crashing their cars because they are sleepy, a survey has shown. Snorers complain of day-time sleepiness, nod off at inappropriate moments and often have to pull off the road to wake themselves up.

"It is time to stop thinking of snoring as a joke and begin treating it like any other medical condition," Dr John Stradling, of the Osier Chest Unit at the Churchill hospital, Oxford, said. Dr Stradling, who with two colleagues carried out the survey, published in the journal *Thorax*, says that he was reluctant to believe that snoring, with no other symptoms of serious sleep disorders, could have such effects but that the findings allowed no other interpretation.

Researchers questioned 855

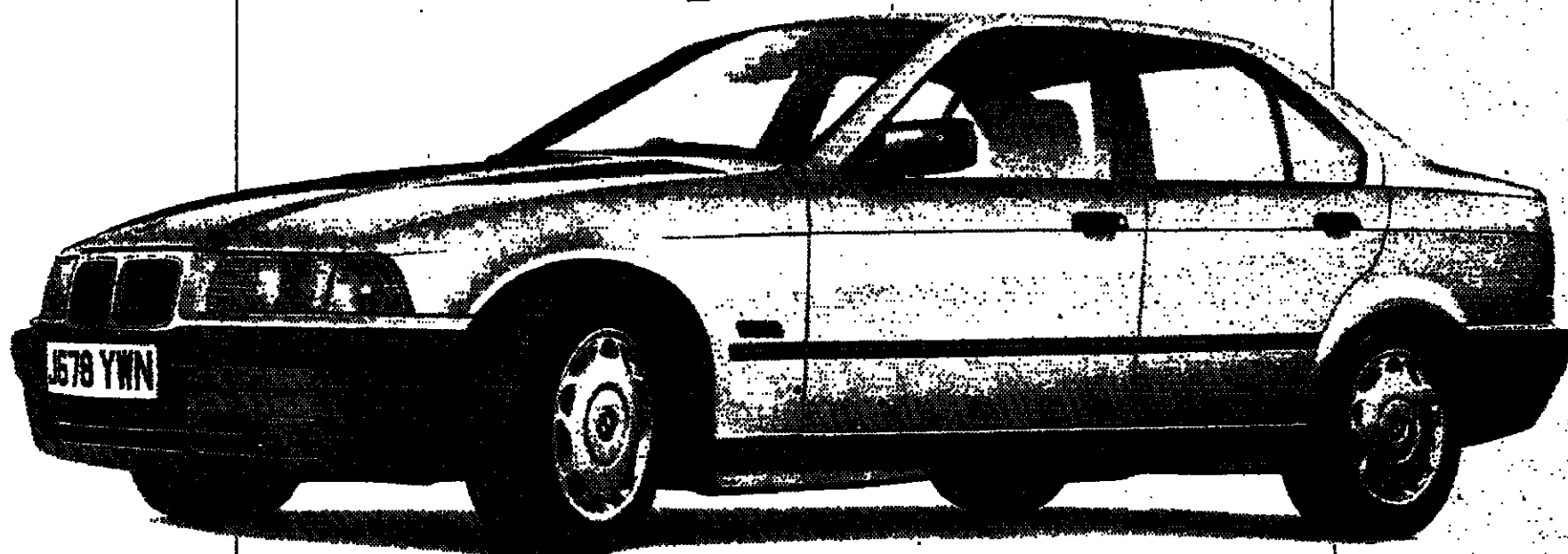
men in Wheatley, near Oxford. To make sure they were not suffering from sleep apnoea, a disorder in which breathing stops altogether for significant periods, their oxygen consumption was measured during the night. Very few showed the oxygen dips characteristic of the condition but their responses to questions showed that their sleep was suffering.

Dr Stradling believes that the extra effort snorers make to maintain normal breathing affects the quality of their sleep. This is particularly marked among "rescued snorers", whose snoring gets louder until the effort of breathing wakes them up.

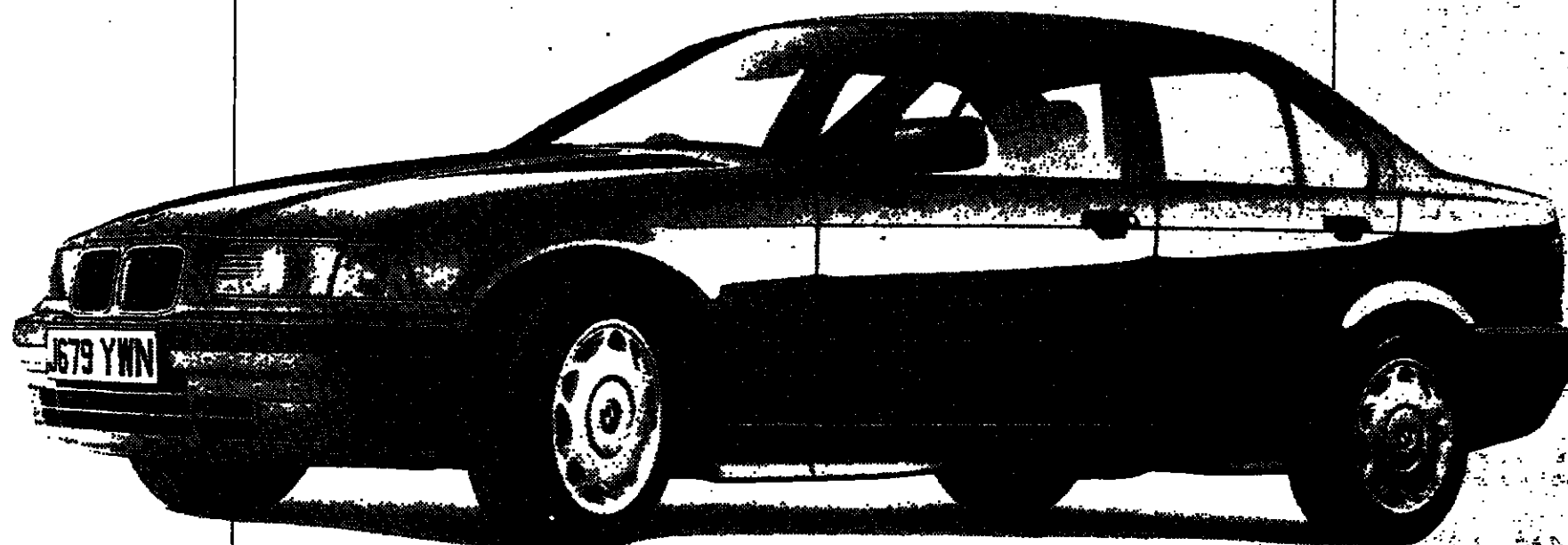
Three important factors, Dr Stradling says, contribute to snoring: being overweight, having nasal blockages, for example caused by inflammation, and smoking. Sometimes congenital characteristics such as a small jaw can be significant. Since some of those factors are reversible, Dr Stradling says that there may be hope for inveterate snorers.

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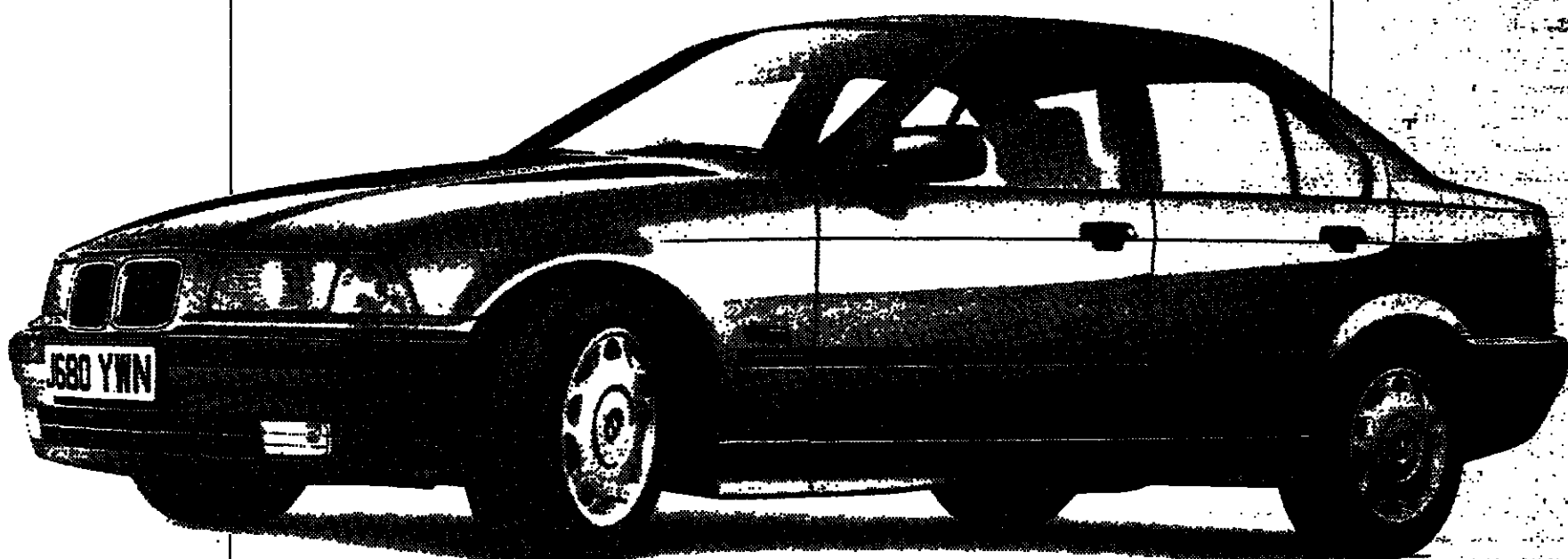
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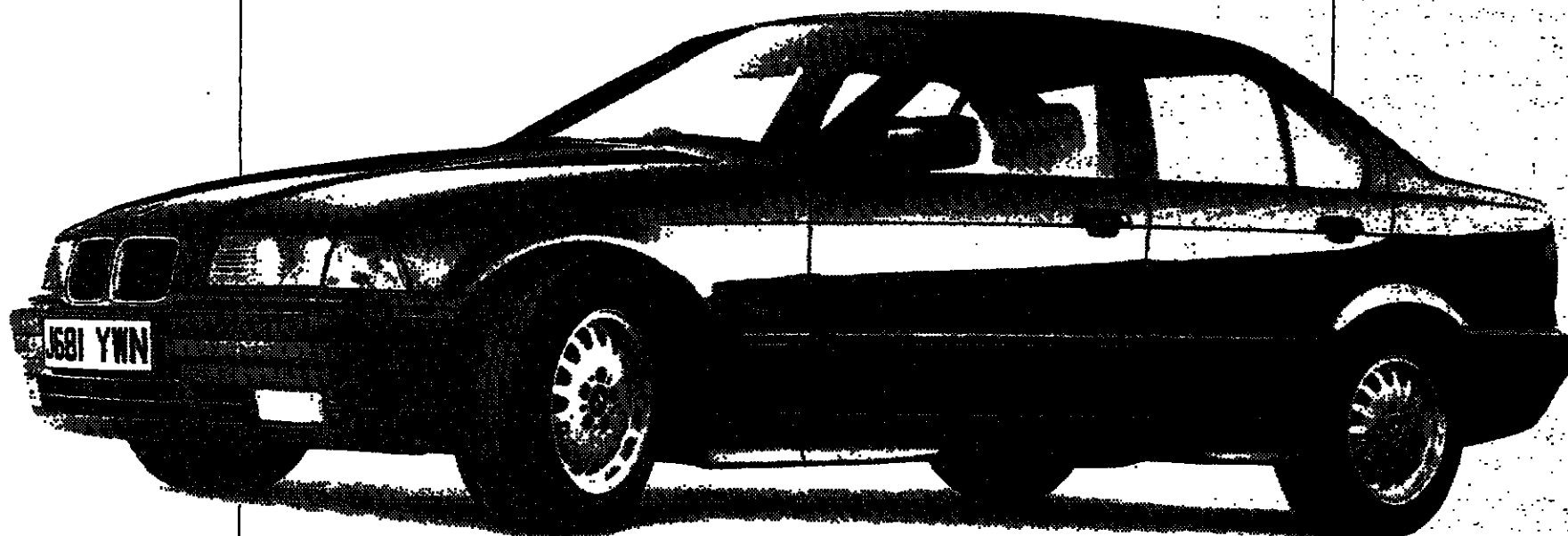
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## Cambridge college to sell site to supermarket

By STAFF REPORTERS

TRUSTEES of a Cambridge University college yesterday decided to sell off its site to a supermarket chain.

Homerton College said the sale of the city centre land was the only way it could maintain a leading role in education. The college will move to a new site in the city, which is being decided between college and university officials and planners.

Dr David Harrison, chairman of the trustees, said: "Only a development scheme featuring a leading food retailer would provide Homerton with the resources it needs for dealing with an extensive renovation and rebuilding programme, but to remain in Hills Road with such a development alongside would necessitate the college losing a significant amount of essential teaching accommodation."

Homerton, originally a teacher training college, became part of Cambridge University in 1984. There are about 250 undergraduates.

Negotiations are under way between the college and several supermarket chains before a decision is taken next month on potential purchasers. A spokesman said that the college authorities were aware that their scheme depended on sensitive planning considerations and they were discussing these with the council.

Dr Harrison added: "In order to preserve its prominent role in education, the trustees of Homerton College have concluded that the future of the college lies in its relocation to a new site in

Cambridge... The trustees are expected to meet again next month to consider terms of agreement with a development partner, with a view to entering into a conditional contract early in the new year."

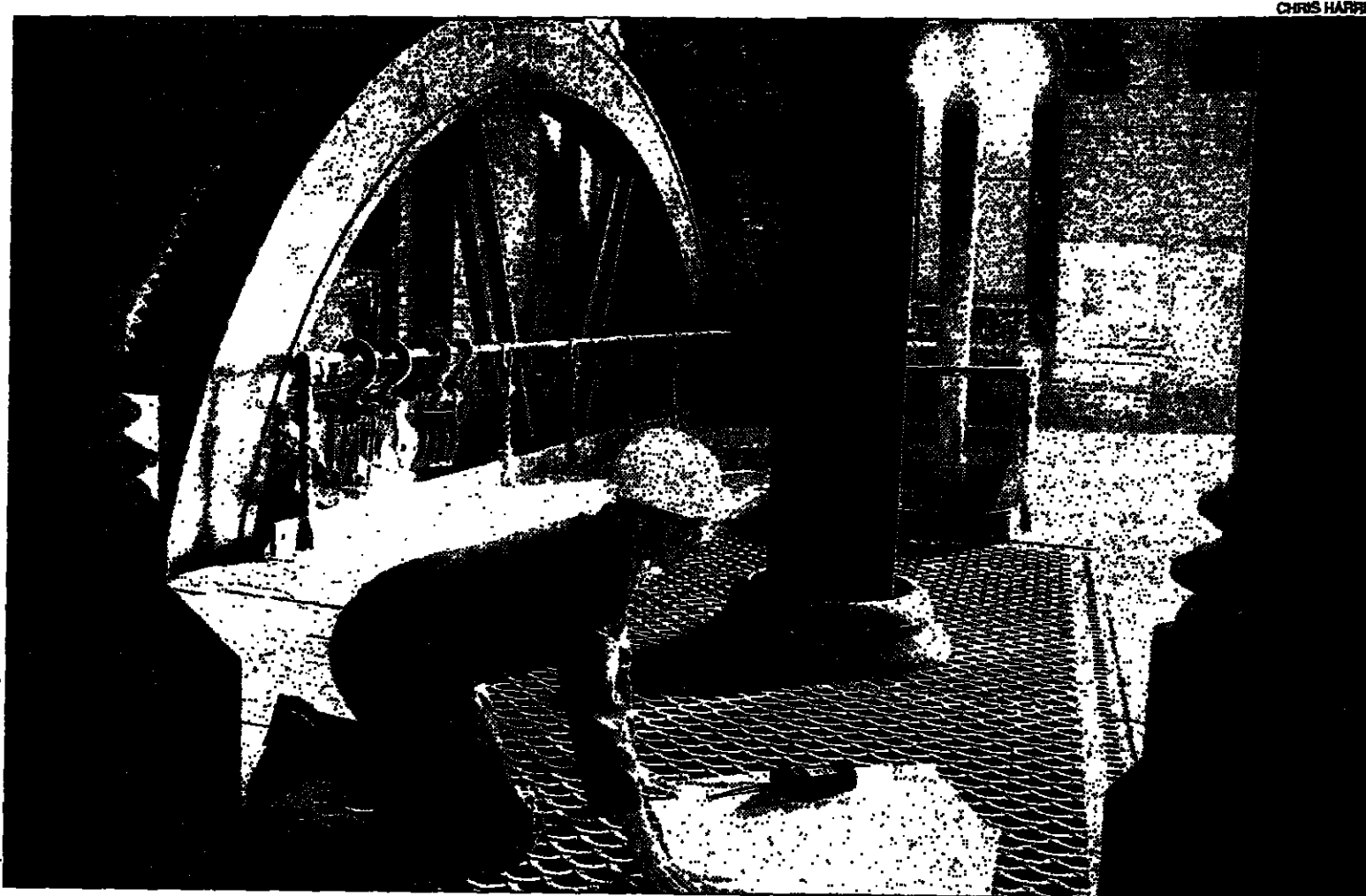
The trustees are thought to be looking at land in the west of the city. The university owns land at University Farm, near Fitzwilliam College on Huntingdon Road, which has been earmarked for a new college in the city plan. The supermarket money would pay for the land, the building of a new college and setting up a new faculty of education.

Since Homerton made its plans known, offers have been made by several chains, believed to include Tesco, Asda, and Sainsbury. Waitrose, food arm of the John Lewis group, confirmed it had expressed an interest.

The 25-acre site in Hills Road is considered some of the best potential development land left in Cambridge. The college has refused to discuss the sum wanted for the land, but it is estimated the site would fetch £15 million to £20 million.

Homerton would have faced a bill of about £11 million for vital structural work if it had opted to stay in Hills Road.

Some local politicians have objected to the sale of the site to a supermarket chain, but the college is a registered charity and if it were unable to sell and forced to close by a cash crisis the site would be sold to the highest bidder - probably a supermarket chain.



Engine room: Mary Sweeting of Thames Water inspecting the Crossness sewage works in Kent, whose 40ft beam engines are to be preserved.

## Citizens to have say on charter

By JOHN WINDER

CITIZENS are to be asked what they want from their charter, launched by John Major earlier this year. Francis Maude, the minister responsible for the charter, told the Commons yesterday that he was commissioning a public opinion survey.

He said that under the charter, public service pay would be increasingly linked to performance. A white paper on contracting out, expected on Monday, would encourage a more open attitude to the buying of services in the public sector.

Chris Smith, for the Opposition, said he did not oppose the charter, the idea for which had been stolen from Labour. There was, though, no commitment in the charter to a right of access for citizens into government affairs. Labour would introduce a freedom of information measure, Malcolm Bruce, for the Liberal Democrats, said the charter had been grossly oversold by a government which had increasingly taken power into its own hands.

## London yields its Roman highway

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have found "High Street, Londinium", the main Roman road through the capital, beneath remarkably well-preserved remains of Saxon buildings.

The road, running east to west 20 yards south of Cheapside in the City, was ten yards wide, a substantial highway on which the largest horse-drawn vehicles could pass each other easily.

Julian Hill, the archaeological supervisor on the site, off Queen Street, said: "We knew the road was hereabouts, but it was luck that we actually hit on it. We know it was being used in the first and second centuries, and we hope to be able to establish when it stopped being used."

On one side of the road the remains of a house burnt by Queen Boudicca's invading tribesmen in AD60 have been found, along with later Roman houses, possibly owned by merchants and traders who followed the Roman army.

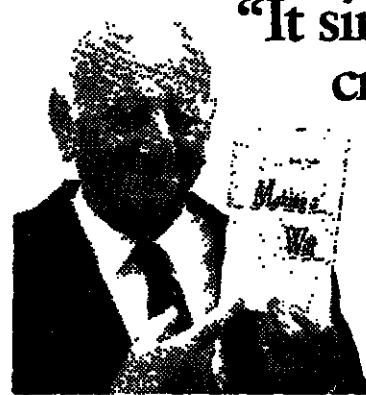
Finds from later centuries have been even more important. After the Romans left and the Saxons flooded into the

fortified city for protection against invading Vikings in the ninth century, the Roman topography was obliterated. In medieval times, the area became a red light district close to the great market at Cheapside. The small roadway that crossed the path of the old Roman road became known as Grope Lane.

Mr Hill said: "We were particularly delighted to find Saxon building timbers well preserved thanks to the dampness from the tributary of the Walbrook. We have been able to establish a building where smelting took place, and the smaller finds around the digs have shown that it was a fairly high-class residential area at some stage."

Finds range in date from the first to the 13th centuries, and cess pits have yielded evidence of the diets of past Londoners. In medieval times they consumed great quantities of stone fruit, including sloes, cherries and plums. There are also remains of apples and blackcurrants.

Smithfield deadline, page 14



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## Householders in line for zero council tax

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

AT LEAST half a million households will pay less council tax than expected or nothing at all when it is introduced in 1993, because of a government decision not to penalise thrifty councils.

Figures produced by the Association of District Councils show that 32 district councils from the Hebrides to the Isle of Wight will be able to set "negative" tax levels that will sharply reduce bills.

Outside London and the metropolitan areas, county and district councils will levy separate taxes that will be combined in one bill for each property. Plans to prevent councils subsidising each other have been dropped, enabling low-spending districts to use surplus government grants to cut the county element of the tax demand.

The surplus would appear on the bill as a minus figure for the district's tax, which would be deducted from the county's figure. In some areas there may be a zero tax, but the regulations will not permit refunds. Councils in London and the metropolitan areas, which have single-tier local

government, will be unable to take advantage.

At Rochester, Kent, householders are likely to pay nothing because the "negative" council tax set by the district council is expected to outweigh the precept levied by the county. The district, which levies one of the lowest poll taxes in Britain at £50 a head, finances all of its £15.5 million annual budget out of interest on investments.

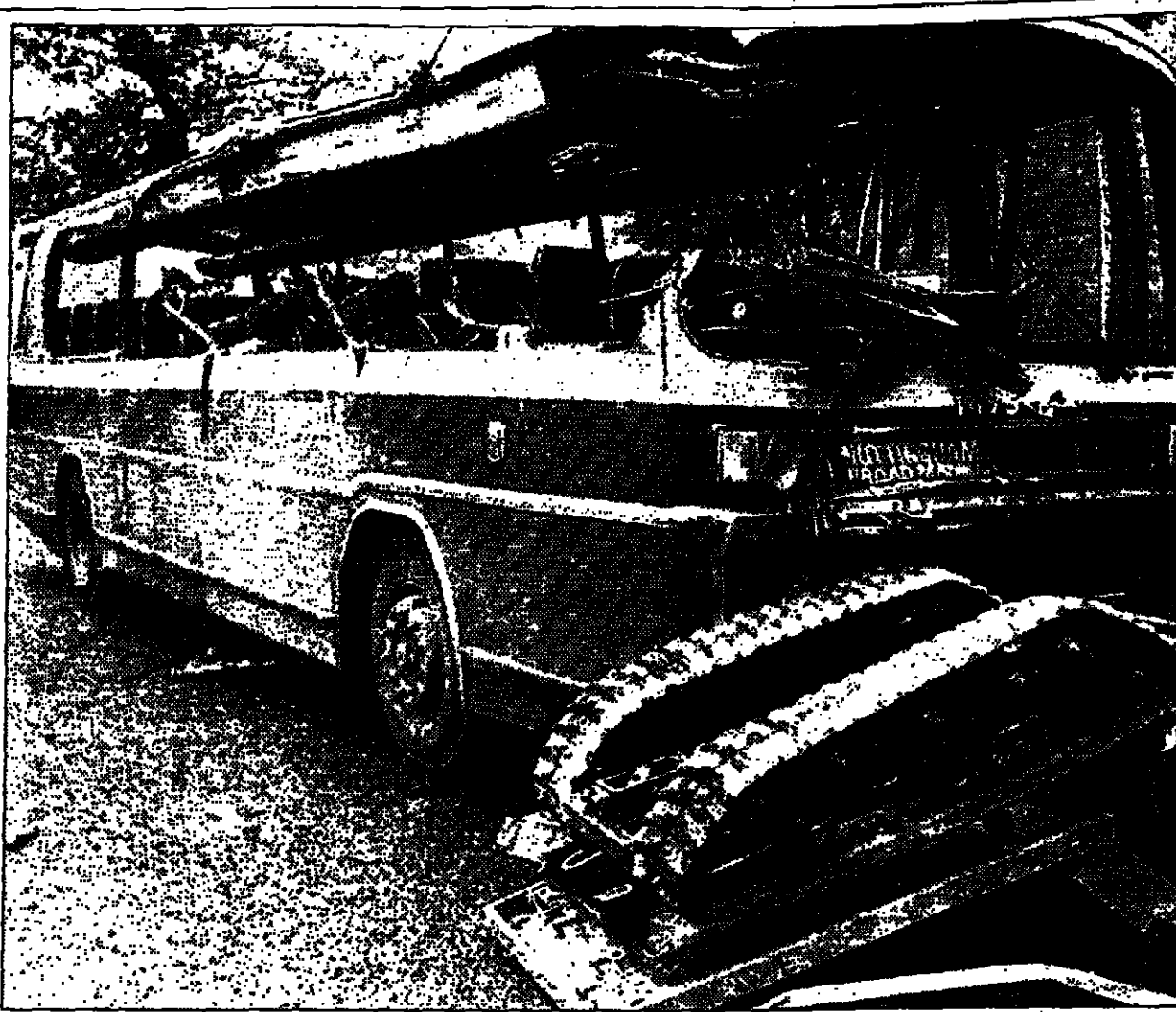
According to the association's figures, Rochester's council tax for the average property would be minus £287, more than offsetting Kent county council's expected council tax of £206. The association also said that Western Isles, Shetland and Orkney councils in Scotland would have been able to set a zero council tax if it had been introduced this year.

The 32 districts have a combined adult population of more than 2.5 million and are estimated to have more than half a million homes. They include Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, which would set a district council tax of minus £184, and Slough,

Berkshire, where the district element would be minus £145.

The environment department said that ministers wanted council tax payers to benefit from the "prudence" of local authorities. It added: "Rochester would be unique in setting a zero council tax but in other areas the savings for taxpayers would be considerable."

The 32 councils are: Rochester (-£287); Wellingborough (-£184); Slough (-£145); Portsmouth (-£68); Cherwell, Oxfordshire (-£64); Plymouth (-£61); Aylesbury Vale, Buckinghamshire (-£56); Huntingdonshire (-£48); Medway, Isle of Wight (-£41); Forest Heath, Suffolk (-£38); East Northamptonshire (-£34); West Oxfordshire (-£32); Derby (-£30); South Hereford (-£27); South Staffordshire (-£22); Luton (-£18); Bridgnorth (-£15); South Cambridgeshire (-£12); Basingstoke (-£10); Purbeck, Dorset (-£8); Taunton Deane (-£7); Bath (-£7); King's Lynn (-£7); Gravesham, Kent (-£5); Poole (-£5); North Dorset (-£2); Blaby, Leicestershire (-£1); Bournemouth (-£1).



Crash wreckage: the bus on which three people died when the jib of a mechanical excavator tore open its side

## Three die as digger jib swings into bus

By CRAIG SETON

THREE people died yesterday and eight others were injured, one seriously, when the jib of a mechanical excavator ripped open the side of a bus full of commuters and schoolchildren.

The accident happened during the rush hour on the A606 near Torkington, Nottinghamshire, where a lorry carrying four mini-excavators jammed under a railway bridge. One of the diggers was loosened and its jib arm, with a bucket on the end, swung into the side of the passing bus.

A passenger, David Potter, aged 17, said: "There was an orange blur as the jib struck the window. There was lots of screaming. I just ducked because there was glass flying everywhere."

Two men and a woman on the bus were killed. Firemen helped to free the dead and injured. Seven who were slightly hurt and a man with serious injuries were taken to the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham.

## Opposition grows to integration

For most ordinary voters, Maastricht and all that are remote to the point of invisibility. Ivor Crewe reports

AS THE Maastricht summit approaches, the public mood appears to be stiffening against economic and political union. Thursday's ICM poll in *The Guardian* reported growing opposition since December, especially among Conservatives, to the adoption of a single currency, to the transfer of some Westminster powers to European institutions and to the transformation of a single European market to a single European state.

This will be music to the ears of the anti-federalists, who are banking on such an electoral backlash to stiffen John Major's resistance at Maastricht. The opposition parties hope to win votes by labelling anything short of John Major agreeing to full economic and political union as a lamentable government failure to catch the European train. Both sides think a middle course at Maastricht will damage the Conservatives electorally. Both sides are probably wrong.

For one thing, the issue is remote to the point of invisibility for most ordinary voters. Fewer than 1 per cent mentioned it in last month's Gallup poll as one of the two most urgent problems facing the country. For another, the Conservatives have traditionally commanded far more public trust than Labour on European matters, a trust that has grown markedly under John Major. In the ICM poll a two-to-one majority preferred Major and Hurd to Kinnock and Kaufman as Britain's negotiating team at Maastricht, a near repetition of the October Gallup poll.

Faith in the Conservatives on Europe is rooted in more than an instinctive assumption that they are the more nationalist party. It is an endorsement of John Major's cautious positivism over Mrs Thatcher's flamboyant hostility

(see table). Her summer speeches against European union left voters cold: "yesterday's woman", who was harnessed the government and her own reputation and should stay silent on the issue. Compared with a year ago, when Mrs Thatcher was still leader, voters' preferences for the Conservatives over Labour as the party of Europe has widened from a 39 to 31 margin to a 53-24 margin.

John Major's approach to Europe is closer to the voters' mood than the Euro-scepticism of Conservative dissidents or the new found Euro-enthusiasm of the Labour leadership. Like him, they would prefer an evolutionary progress towards European union to forced integration - or to no progress at all.

In July, Gallup found that only 13 per cent wanted "a fully integrated Europe with most major decisions taken by a European government". However, a similarly small minority of 17 per cent wanted "the situation much as it is now, with Britain retaining a veto over major policy changes it does not like". The majority view was for "a Europe more integrated than now, but with decisions that mainly affect Britain staying in British hands".

Voters do not want European union. Even more, they do not want Britain to be odd man out. Between co-operation and integration they prefer co-operation, and between integration and isolation they prefer integration. John Major's preference ordering appears to be the same, which is why voters trust him more than others to obtain the best deal available.

Ivor Crewe is professor of government at Essex University

Kohl optimistic, page 10

## Tory Maastricht motion tabled

THE government motion on which next week's Commons debate on Europe will be based was issued yesterday.

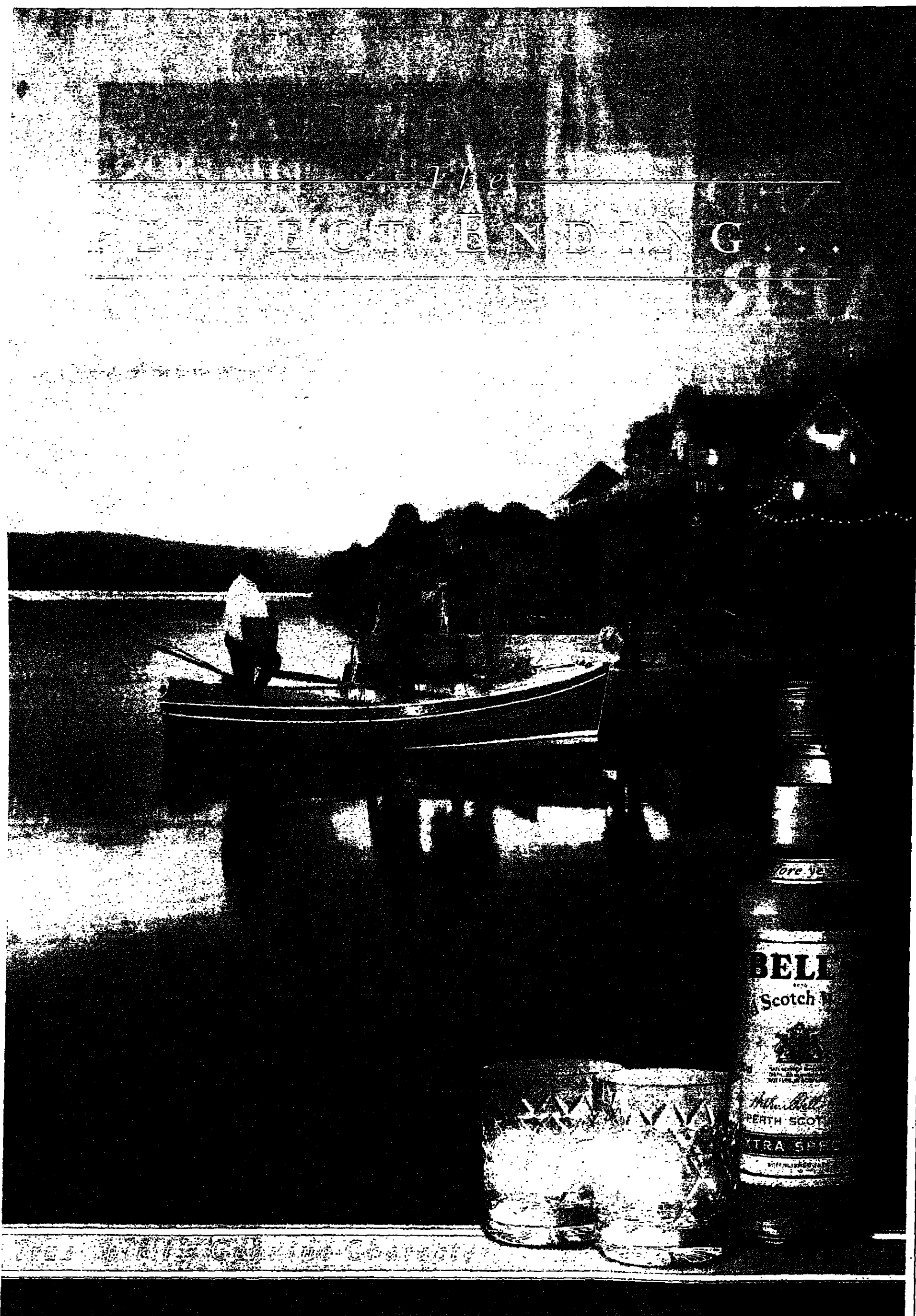
The full text reads: "That this House, believing it is in Britain's interests to continue to be at the heart of the European Community and able to shape its future and that of Europe as a whole, endorses the constructive negotiating approach adopted by the government in the inter-governmental conferences on economic and monetary union and on political union and urges them to work for an agreement at the forthcoming European Council at Maastricht which avoids the development of a federal Europe."

"Enables this country to exert the greatest influence on the economic evolution of the Community while preserving the right of Parliament to decide at a future date whether to adopt a

single currency; on issues of Community competence concentrates the development of action on those issues which cannot be handled more effectively at national level and, in particular, avoids intrusive Community measures in social areas which are matters for national decision."

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Hopes for peace in Middle East suffer further blows

## Israel threatens to prosecute Ashrawi

FROM RICHARD BRESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI authorities yesterday threatened to derail the peace process when police recommended that Hanan Ashrawi, a key Palestinian figure in the negotiations, should be prosecuted for allegedly meeting the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The justice ministry confirmed it had received evidence that Mrs Ashrawi, the widely respected spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegates at the Madrid peace talks, had met PLO officials. The move against Mrs Ashrawi was seen as particularly provocative since it coincided with celebrations across the occupied territories by thousands of Palestinians marking the third anniversary of their declaration of independence.

Mrs Ashrawi, a professor of English at Bir Zeit University in the West Bank, said: "I knew peace had many enemies but when a state resorts to this... it shows there is no level to which it would not

sink. I think this is petty and vindictive. It is an attempt to intimidate and silence the Palestinians."

Although the Israeli attorney general's office said it could be some weeks before a decision is taken on whether to prosecute, even the threat of a trial will be enough to hamper attempts to reconvene bilateral talks between Israel and the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, who had until now appeared to have achieved some progress towards resolving the future status of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and the fate of their 1.8 million Palestinian inhabitants.

In Amman, Kamal Abu Jaber, the Jordanian foreign minister and a member of the negotiating team, reacted angrily to the Israeli move. "To put it mildly, it is an affront to the international community and a challenge to the two co-sponsors. Definitely they [the United States

and the Soviet Union] should do something," he said. "It seems as if everything the Israelis are doing is to get a reaction to blow up the whole process."

Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, has begun a ten-day trip to America, where he is likely to face pressure to be more conciliatory towards the Palestinians. Although an opinion poll showed this week that 74 per cent of Israelis want to exchange land for peace and 71 per cent support a freeze on Jewish settlement in the occupied territories, Mr Shamir was quoted in the newspaper *Haaretz* yesterday as saying that he would never relinquish one inch of land and that the settlements would continue to expand.

Asked whether Palestinian delegates to the peace talks would be granted immunity, he said: "We will act with them in accordance with the law. They will not be immune from the law but also we will not annoy them. As long as there is no agreement, the situation in the territories remains as is."

According to Israeli officials, Mrs Ashrawi, of the Palestinian town of Ramallah, is suspected of meeting PLO officials in a village in September, as a time when she claims she was in London. Although it is widely accepted that she and other Palestinian leaders from the occupied territories do hold regular sessions with PLO members in Europe and the Middle East, they normally go to some lengths to conceal the contacts and avoid a showdown with the Israeli authorities. If she is found guilty, Mrs Ashrawi could share the fate of Abie Nathan, the Israeli peace activist who is serving an 18-month sentence for holding a public meeting earlier this year with Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the PLO.

Yesterday left-wing members of the Knesset demanded a change in the law on contacts with the PLO that would help avoid future confrontations, particularly at sensitive periods in peace negotiations. Amnon Rubinstein, a member of the centrist Shinui party, said: "I cannot blame the police - they have a stupid law that they have to enforce. But if the recommendation is carried out, Israel's image will suffer irreparable damage. This would be an absurdity which no democratic society would contemplate."



Arguing her case: Hanan Ashrawi, prominent advocate for the Palestinian cause, in Ramallah yesterday

## Moi orders arrest of key opponents planning rally

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

PRESIDENT Moi of Kenya yesterday ordered the special branch to arrest leading pro-democracy activists, including Oginga Odinga, the nation's most revered elder statesman. Mr Odinga, aged 76, Kenya's first vice-president after independence from Britain, was dragged into the street in the small hours of yesterday morning in his pyjamas.

This humiliation, and the raids and detentions by the police, came less than 48 hours before a pro-democracy demonstration that is scheduled in the capital today. Opposition leaders hope that it will draw thousands onto the streets to demand that the one-party dominance of President Moi's Kenya African National Union be brought to an end.

Western diplomats were stunned by the police moves, which were described by one European emissary as "an appalling error of judgment". Organisers had feared a poor turnout for the rally, he said, adding: "Now Moi has done this, he has given them the best publicity they could have hoped for."

Most of the leading lights of the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy, notably Githu Igunyanya, editor of the *Nairobi Monthly* and a leading human rights lawyer, and Dennis Akumu, a trade unionist, were yesterday either in hiding or being charged with organising an illegal gathering. But Masingde Muliro, a former MP, defied President Moi and called on "Kenians everywhere to dem-

onstrate their commitment to democracy by joining in the march" - although the protest has been banned.

Mr Muliro, referring to the steady collapse of the economy and administration in Zaire under President Mobutu, said the Kenyan Government had shown that it was not interested in peaceful change and that it wanted to go the Zairean way.

At least 20 people were killed and scores injured by paramilitary police in July last year, when crowds took to the streets to demand multiparty

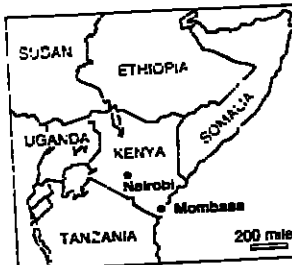
The murder inquiry, which has been held with unprecedented openness and drawn political attention for more than a year, has also reached a dramatic stage with the arrival last week of Detective Superintendent John Troon, formerly of Scotland Yard, and other British officers.

Letters produced at the inquiry from the head of the Swiss-based BAK consultancy group to lawyers acting for the president accused five ministers, including Vice-President George Saitoti, of demanding kickbacks in return for the award of a contract to refurbish a molasses plant in Kisumu.

Mr Troon told the inquiry that he believed that Ouko was murdered because he was about to present a dossier on high-level corruption to President Moi the weekend after his burnt and battered body was found with a single bullet hole in the head.

Kenya has a chronic problem with the flight of money overseas. President Moi has been under increasing international pressure to reform and appears to be heeding advice from friendly countries such as Britain. London has been warning him privately that aid will soon be directly linked to moves towards democracy and efforts to stamp out corruption.

Meanwhile, the American embassy issued a statement yesterday condemning the arrest of the opposition leaders and urged the Kenyan leader to order their immediate release.



democracy and to protest against the alleged murder of Robert Ouko, the Kenyan foreign minister. Foreign journalists and diplomats have been ordered to stay away from the site of the proposed demonstration in Nairobi's industrial area "for their own safety". But the American embassy in Nairobi has accepted the opposition grouping's invitation to act as observers.

The march comes amid political tension at its highest point since Ouko's murder.

## Jordan puts gag on journalist

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AMMAN

A LEADING Jordanian journalist has been banned from writing at home and black-listed throughout the Arab world because he gave a brief interview to Israel television during the opening of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid.

The fate of Suhan Hatnab, expelled from the Jordan Press Association and the Writers Union as a result of the four-minute appearance, has highlighted the obstacles to the peace process. It has dismayed Western governments because Jordan is considered the most moderate of the Arab countries at the negotiating table. The ban forces Hatnab to work in exile, as it coincides with government protests against Israel's treatment of the Palestinians, the chief Palestinian negotiator.

The unanimous vote by the 12-member board of the Press Association was followed by a communiqué which declared: "Since the interview with Israel television constitutes a violation of the Arab boycott

rules against Israel, and of the association's laws and regulations which consider any contact with the Zionist enemy as capital treason... the council has decided to dismiss Suhan Hatnab and ban him from serving as a journalist."

Although some Jordanian journalists and politicians have protested, a large number supported the ban, which underlined popular opposition to any normalisation of ties with the Jewish state in advance of Israeli withdrawal from land captured from Jordan in the 1967 war.

Mr Hatnab, aged 39, a former editor-in-chief of the pro-government *Al-Shaab* and political columnist on the liberal *Al-Rai* daily, said he was "astonished" by the ban. "All I did was to answer two questions in which I outlined Jordan's determination to get back the land stolen from it and to secure self-determination for the Palestinians," Mr Hatnab said yesterday.

"This is part of a plot by hidden powers trying to sabotage any chance of peace."

## South Lebanon raid kills three

FROM REUTERS IN TYRE, LEBANON

THREE children were killed when Israeli gunners and their Lebanese militia allies shelled villages in southern Lebanon, security sources said. The dead children, aged between 11 and 13, died in the village of Zabqin just north of the Jewish state's self-proclaimed border security zone. A fourth child was wounded and taken to hospital.

Israeli and South Lebanon Army (SLA) artillery fired more than 150 shells into the districts of Iqlim al-Toufah,

Nabatieh and Tyre over a period of 15 hours. The shelling, the fiercest in recent weeks, followed a bomb blast near an SLA base at Sujud hill on the tip of the security zone on Thursday night, the sources said. That blast caused no casualties.

Israeli warplanes and helicopters destroyed two bases of the pro-Iranian, Hezbollah, two strategic bridges and a post of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine north of the zone. Hezbollah,

which advocates wiping out the Jewish state, has stepped up its attacks against Israeli targets in southern Lebanon to sabotage the Middle East peace talks. The Damascus-based popular front, headed by George Habash, also rejects the peace talks.

About 1,000 Israeli soldiers and the 3,000-strong SLA patrol the nine-mile-deep zone set up in 1985 along the border with Lebanon to curb guerrilla attacks on northern Israel.

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## Soviet officers seek Baltic business base

From BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

SOVIET officers serving in the Baltic republics, terrified of being left homeless and stateless by the collapse of Moscow's rule, claimed the right yesterday to control and exploit commercially the region's defence installations, including harbours and airports. Mikhail Bocharov, a charismatic Russian politician and former ally of Boris Yeltsin, backed their demands and said the commercial value of the installations ran into many billions of dollars.

At a Moscow press conference, the officers protested bitterly over the threatened confiscation, or purchase at nominal prices, of military property by the governments

of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, which regained independence from Moscow in September after 51 years. Backed by Mr Bocharov, the former head of Russia's supreme economic council, the officers suggested that putting the Soviet military's accumulated "investment" to commercial use — or selling it on advantageous terms — could be the only way to stave off acute economic difficulties facing the garrison. Their claims were an ominous sign that the withdrawal of more than 100,000 Soviet servicemen from the Baltic states will pose even sharper problems than has the pullout from Eastern Europe.

The Baltic governments initially demanded the removal of Soviet forces within a few months. But the Kremlin defence chiefs — already struggling to accommodate several hundred thousand homeless service families — have said this is out of the question.

The property under dispute includes ports such as Klaipeda, always one of the bastions of Soviet power in Lithuania, and the barracks, housing and communal facilities enjoyed by the huge service community, active and retired, in the Latvian capital of Riga. The council's aims, endorsed at a mass meeting chaired by one of the region's naval commanders, include "commercial activity at military installations" and "regulating the construction of new facilities", both civilian and military, at any new bases to which the Baltic-based troops might move.

The new organisation, which demands the right to take part in all inter-governmental talks affecting its members' fate, has the stated intention of bringing together serving and retired members of the armed forces, "entrepreneurial circles in Russia" and Soviet parliamentarians.

Its president, Captain Valery Shorin, a naval officer, said the council would "struggle through every political and economic means" to achieve its aims but would not countenance the use of force. However, the sight of Soviet army officers publicly denouncing the Baltic region's nationalist governments was enough to bring back chilling memories of last winter's bloody clashes.

Oslo: Norway said yesterday that it would be training nine officials from the Baltic states in the niceties of diplomacy. The foreign ministry said that nine diplomats — three each from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia — would be arriving tomorrow for a two-week course.

"The course will include questions of organising the foreign service, techniques for bilateral and multilateral negotiations, participation in international forums, reporting, political analyses, media and cultural work, protocol, and so on," it said. (Reuters)

Russia stakes claim, page 1  
Diary, page 18

## Slovak author stirs 'Rushdie' storm

From ROGER BOYES, EAST EUROPE CORRESPONDENT

THERE is no Vatican contract out on Martin Kasarda, a Slovak writer, but in other respects he is becoming known as the Salman Rushdie of Eastern Europe. Politicians are determined that he should be jailed for blasphemy.

In late summer Kasarda, aged 23, published a story called *(Perhaps) The Last Supper*. The narrator, Judas Iscariot, describes the event not as the dignified farewell presented in the Gospels, but as an ugly orgy in which Jesus becomes physically involved with Mary Magdalene.

The story, published in the Bratislava weekly *Kulturny Zivot* (Cultural Life), might have been shrugged off as a lapse in taste or an attempt to outrage the predominantly Roman Catholic Slovaks. But coming at a time when Slovak nationalist and Catholic sentiments are running high it has provoked a furious reaction.

With Czechs and Slovaks arguing about a possible break-up of Czechoslovakia, the role of the Catholic Church has become crucial. Its bishops have stated that "the Slovak nation has the right to its autonomous life and its national and state sovereignty". The church is also pressing for a ban on abortion and for an extension

of the church school system. Prague could give ground on some of these demands if the church soft-pedalled its support for Slovak independence.

The architects of the "velvet revolution" are not exactly queuing up to defend Kasarda. President Havel, the accomplished playwright and head of state, has deplored the persecution of a writer for his work, but he has let it be known that he does not particularly like Kasarda's story.

The politicians are ignoring Mr Havel's appeal for tolerance. Jozef Miklosko, the Czechoslovak deputy prime minister, wants Kasarda tried under the criminal code which allows Prague to prosecute those who "offend against race, nation or belief". The issue has also been debated in the Slovak cabinet and the central parliament.

Czech writers who have read the story say that it is the quality of the writing rather than political expediency that is dulling their support for the author's right to publish. Prague's literary critics argue that Rushdie's allegedly blasphemous episodes in *The Satanic Verses* were at least finely crafted and part of an important piece of fiction. It is difficult to say the same of Kasarda's work.



Light meal: heedless of a no-smoking sign, a diner in a Paris fast-food restaurant prepares to puff a Gitanes

## Smoking lobby signals its wrath

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

A PARTICULARLY virulent version of *la grippe* is sweeping Paris, but that is no reason for diehard smokers to stub out their Gauloises or Gitanes. As pressure mounts from France's anti-smoking lobby to stop a person's right to puff pungent tobacco fumes into other people's faces, smokers continue to light up defiantly the instant they step off the Métro and smoke between — and sometimes during — courses in elegant restaurants.

Even the health ministry, leading the fight to reduce the ravages of smoking-related diseases — some 65,000 deaths a year and direct medical costs of around 35 billion francs (£3.5 billion) — agrees that a step-by-step approach is best suited to the French character. Although the government is committed to a Europe-wide campaign to reduce smoking levels, it was startled by the strength of opposition to recent proposed restrictions.

The main aims were to enforce the provision of 50 per cent non-smoking tables in restaurants and raise that proportion to 70 per cent from 1995; to boost the number of non-smoking railway compartments from 30 to 50 per cent on all trains; and to ban smokers entirely from state-owned domestic airlines (which has effectively been achieved), from cafeterias

and other rest areas provided by private concerns, and from queues in public places such as post offices.

Under the proposed legislation, offenders would be liable to fines of up to about 250 francs, which would buy about 40 packets of French cigarettes and, is considered scandalously light by the health lobby and people who object to emerging from the *boussier* smelling like an old ashtray. But Gallic concepts of *liberté* and *égalité* are taken seriously, and the reaction to the proposed new measures was fierce indeed, with talk of heavy-handed government ushering in a "police state" in which smokers would become hunted prey.

More prosaically, there was stern opposition from restaurant owners, alarmed at the potential impact on business, and police unions grumbled about being expected to enforce laws that anyone who understands the French know will be comprehensively flouted.

The 60-billion-franc government monopoly on cigarette sales also leaves the state wide open to charges of profiteering and downright hypocrisy.

Under this brisk fire, Edith Cresson's government's drew back from rubber-stamping the proposed measures and instructed the health ministry to "review" the situation further.

PARIS NOTEBOOK by Philip Jacobson

## Honest Michel outwits gossipers

When dinner-table gossip about the break-up of Michel Rocard's marriage began doing the rounds in all Paris, the former prime minister decided to take one of the biggest gambles of his long career in Socialist politics. Although the French media have traditionally steered clear of the private lives of politicians, he judged that, as a front-runner to succeed President Mitterrand, it would be less risky to go public with the news than allow potential

rivals to leak it out through malicious whispers.

Earlier this month, M Rocard called in a reporter from *Le Point* magazine and announced that 25 years after they first met he and his wife, Michèle, are living apart. "I am confident that the press will not want to take this any further," he declared, noting that France has avoided the "American syndrome" whereby the most intimate affairs of public figures become public property.

"Prudishness has never been part of our culture... while in this respect, the Americans are a considerably younger people," M Rocard remarked loftily, certain that the French enjoy nothing more than condescending to lesser breeds, Anglo-Saxons especially.

In short, a bravura performance from one of the very few politicians French voters seem inclined to trust. To judge by initial reactions, the public was anything but

scandalised — it may help that M Rocard comes from the small Protestant community.

Those familiar with the ordeal of travel by taxi in Paris will know that the average driver does not score highly when it comes to the little courtesies of daily life. At times, it seems as if passengers impose an intolerable burden.

It comes as something of a revelation, then, to hear the head of the *Fédération Nationale des Artisans du Taxi*, Armand Arisier, concede that there may be faults on both sides. For a start, he admits that due to the lack of satisfactory candidates, the level of competence previously required from drivers has been downgraded: some consolation, perhaps, the next time you get lost between the Etoile and Gare St Lazare.

M Arisier is pleased to announce that from next week all drivers will have to qualify for a course of instruction that involves something more de-

manding than the ability to scare the living daylights out of passengers.

Just as momentous, they are to be taught "the rudiments of making welcome" — how to smile, thank foreigners in their own language for a tip, even conduct a civilised conversation on the architectural glories of the capital. Watch this space.

According to the respected publication *Sciences et Avenir*, the French are not laughing as much as they used to: barely five or six minutes a day, it seems, whereas they could be relied on for around 20 minutes back in the side-splitting 1940s.

In the best tradition of enlightened research, the pop music TV channel, M6, is funding a series of shows introducing new comic talents. For the record, yet another opinion poll concluded that 94 per cent of the French think laughing is essential to good health.

## Paris and Bonn set firm course for unity

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN



COUNTDOWN TO MAASTRICHT

THE European Community summit next month will see agreement on treaties for political and economic union, President Mitterrand of France and Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, agreed here yesterday after two days of talks in preparation for what they called "Europe's hour of decision". "Despite all our difficulties, I am sure that there will be success in Maastricht," Herr Kohl said at a press conference in which the two leaders sought to show that their countries were the driving force of European unity. Central to their optimism was the belief that Britain now took more positive approach to European unity.

Yet it seemed both were looking to London for more concessions to ensure success at Maastricht. Although there remain details in the draft treaty on economic and monetary union which both countries want changed, they regard these as marginal compared with British complaints.

Both men viewed failure as out of the question. According to M Mitterrand, it would result in a resurgence of nationalism and a return to more sinister alliances. Herr Kohl said it would be "a catastrophe". He was determined to take "an irreversible step" towards European union at Maastricht. But it was clear that differences remain on some key details to be resolved at Maastricht. M Mitterrand was unhappy at the decision to increase the number of German MEPs to take account of unification. He said it was against the spirit of the Treaty of Rome, which ruled that big countries should have equal representation.

The two leaders decided not to expand on their ideas for a Franco-German brigade which could form the nucleus of a European army. Their plans are to be outlined first at April's meeting of the Franco-German defence council and not, as Britain wants, split out before Maastricht during Monday's meeting of the Western European Union.

Tory motion, page 1  
Ivor Crewe, page 6  
Leading article, page 15

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## Taxidermy threat to Olympics

From HARRY DEBELIUS IN MADRID

A DOCTOR living near Barcelona says he will ask African countries to boycott part of the Barcelona Olympics unless a stuffed black man is removed from a museum at one of the Olympic venues.

The scantily-clad Bechuanaland tribesman, who dwelt a century ago near Mount Kilimanjaro, stands with a spear in his hand, casting a glassy stare on visitors to the Darder municipal museum of natural history at Banyoles, the Catalan town where Olympic rowers are to compete. He shares space with human fetuses, tanned human skulls, mummies and human skulls. A metal collar masks the fact that he was decapitated.

Dr Alfonso Arcelin, a Haitian-born Spaniard living in Cambrils, 65 miles southwest of Barcelona, wrote this month to Joan Solana, the mayor of Banyoles. "I am black and I feel insulted," he said, calling for the removal of the exhibit. Unless he got a prompt and affirmative reply, he said, he would contact the embassies of African countries in Spain to explain his position and ask them to encourage their respective Olympic committees to boycott the rowing competitions next July and August.

Señor Solana told journalists no action would be taken in response to threats of a boycott, but he ordered a thorough "technical" study and admitted that he did not like the exhibit either. Banyoles is home to more African immigrants than most Catalan towns, and the spearsman is considered an unofficial civic symbol.

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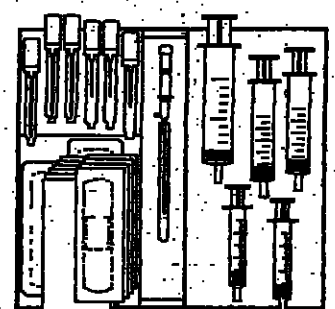
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# Croats to continue talks with Yugoslav federal army on ending siege of historic Adriatic city

## Dubrovnik's heart survives the onslaught

Tim Judah reports that fears of severe damage to historic monuments in the ancient port caused by bombardment have proved to be unfounded

DAMAGE to the medieval city of Dubrovnik is less serious than originally feared and no historic monuments have been destroyed. The four-day bombardment of the old city by the Yugoslav federal army from land, sea and air hit some buildings within the ancient walls. However, officials said yesterday that they had still no precise idea of the damage inflicted.

"I think about 25 shells or rockets landed within the walls," said Bozo Letic, the director of the Institute for the restoration of Dubrovnik. But because we have all been our shelters we don't actually know. Other officials estimated that as many as 50 projectiles fell within the walls, but the old city is only a small part of Dubrovnik. Several thousand shells fell on towns on its outskirts.

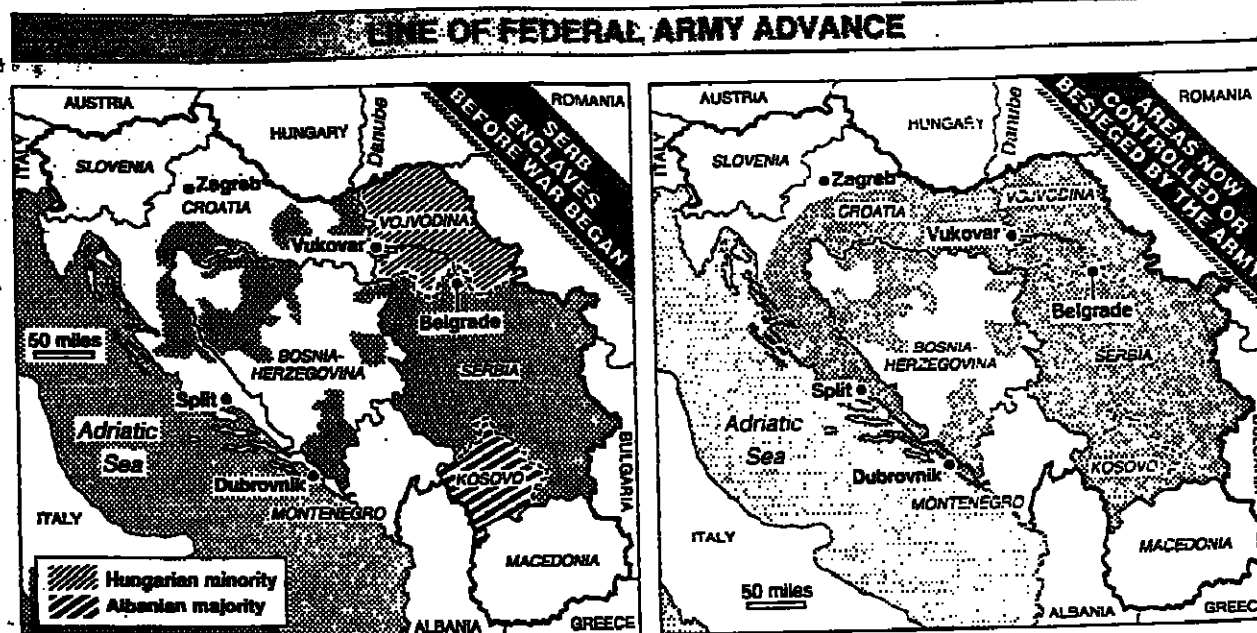
In a move to end the 46-day siege of the medieval city, officials said they would resume talks today with the Yugoslav army. On Thursday officials had said Yugoslav military authorities in Metkovic, their first contact after the four-day bombardment, had agreed to discuss the city's future.

demarcation and control points to be supervised by European Community observers if and when they return to Dubrovnik.

"It is the first step," said Nikša Obuljen, Dubrovnik's deputy mayor and a member of the city's three-man negotiating team. He said that the atmosphere at the first round of talks had been "polite" but added that he was not overly optimistic.

Mr Obuljen said that he believed that international outrage at the shelling of the city may have played a part in the arrangement of the current tentative ceasefire. Pero Poljanec, the city mayor, who had invited the Prince of Wales to visit the city in an attempt to highlight its plight, received a reply yesterday. "I need hardly say that if there was any conceivable way in which I could have responded to your invitation I would have done so," the Prince said. "But I fear that this would probably cause intolerable problems for those responsible for my safety."

The letter ended: "I pray that wiser and more statesman-like judgement may soon prevail in your beleaguered country."



The map of the federal army's advance relies on information provided by *Vreme*, an independent news magazine published in Belgrade. Like all claims from either side of the lines it cannot be conclusively verified

At the height of the shelling there were fears that parts of the old city had suffered severe damage, but this has now proved not to be the case. On the Stradun, the old city's main thoroughfare, windows have been shattered in almost every shop, and there are at least three craters in the street's marble paving stones. One house has been holed in the roof and masonry has collapsed from at least two other houses. An unexploded rocket protrudes from the corner of another home.

From attic windows, holes can be seen in several other roofs but until full reports have been collated it is impossible to give a detailed assessment of the damage. A preliminary list of historic buildings damaged include the 18th century Jesuit church, the city's main clock tower and the 14th century Franciscan monastery. But damage to

all these buildings is slight. Although a rocket hit the top of the clock tower, originally constructed in the 14th century and rebuilt after the first world war, only a scorchmark can be seen at the point of impact and the clock continues to function.

According to one military expert, explosive charges of the rockets, mortars and shells that fell on the old city were low. "They don't want to destroy the town," he said. "These things make a lot of noise and if you are too close they will kill but the Yugoslav army's main aim here is to frighten people... it is psychological warfare."

During the worst of the explosions, the old city shook with every blast but many were actually aimed at the walls of the city and targets such as yachts in the old harbour just outside the walls. While the effect at the time

was terrifying the damage caused to the ramparts is minimal, precisely because they were built to guard the citizens of Dubrovnik against attack.

The quayside of the old harbour is pockmarked with small craters but the medieval walls restored and rebuilt in the 17th century have escaped with only small chips and burns. "The walls are five to six metres thick in parts," said Mr Letic. "They are extremely solid because of the way they are constructed and because they are made of stone they are stronger than reinforced concrete."

At the beginning of the week, Croatian radio reported that the old city of Dubrovnik was in flames but the local radio station is not in the old part of town and its correspondents were sheltering in its bunker. Also, the view from outside the town was mislead-

ing as massive fires burned just beyond the walls, but from a distance it was impossible to say where they were coming from. Shells exploding inside the walls also gave off clouds of smoke and dust but no buildings in the old town were actually burned down.

"Everything can be repaired," said Mr Letic. "But it makes a difference whether a piece of stone is authentic or not." While the Croatian authorities have publicised the plight of Dubrovnik because of its fame and because it has been visited by hundreds of thousands of tourists from all over the world there is increasing irritation in the city that people in the West seem more concerned about the fate of its buildings rather than of the people who live within them.

New ceasefire, page 1  
Letters, page 15

## Bonn pushes for accord details

By Ian Murray, Dossa Trevisan and James Bone

HANS-DIETRICH Genscher is demanding full details of the latest Yugoslav peace accord negotiated by Lord Carrington on behalf of the European Community. The German foreign minister, who has tried vainly to persuade the community to recognise the independence of Croatia and Slovenia, is worried that the accord goes beyond the agreed EC position.

Herr Genscher has asked for clarification of the accord in a letter to Hans van den Broek, the Dutch foreign minister, who is president of the EC council of ministers. In the letter he says that press reports claim that Lord Carrington has offered to let the Serbian minority enclaves in Croatia vote on whether they want to remain as part of an independent Croatia. The reports say this referendum would take place after the enclaves were set up as United Nations protection zones. Herr Genscher insists that this goes against the EC decision that the internal borders of Yugoslavia are inviolate and can only be altered by negotiation.

Bonn would like the community to recognise the independence of Croatia and Slovenia from December 10, when an EC ultimatum on ending all fighting expires. Yesterday, however, President Mitterrand of France made it clear that he was not ready to support recognition.

Germany is under pressure from the Bundestag to make a unilateral declaration of acquiescence. All parties other than the communists yesterday

voted for a resolution calling for recognition of the two republics and blaming Serbs for the civil war. The resolution said that republics would have to guarantee minority rights as a pre-condition to recognition.

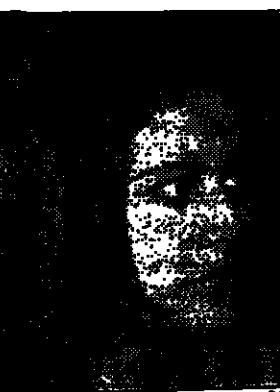
In Belgrade, the disintegration of Yugoslavia's federal institutions took another step when the parliament passed a vote of no confidence in Ante Markovic, the federal premier, thereby completing the takeover of federal affairs by Serbia alone.

The parliament, attended by deputies of just two of the six republics, passed a vote of no confidence in the federal premier and in Budimir Loncar, the federal foreign minister, on grounds that they had mishandled the Yugoslav impasse. Mr Markovic, a Croat, but strongly Yugoslav has been the target of media attacks and threatened by Serb nationalist groups.

The Yugoslav presidency has been taken over by the Serbian bloc which even though not recognised by Western governments, continues to act as a legitimate head of state.

Yesterday, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, told Vlatko Jovanovic, the Serbian foreign minister, that the fighting in Yugoslavia had to stop and exposed dismay at the attack on Dubrovnik.

Cyrus Vance, the United Nations special envoy on Yugoslavia, will return to the country today to assess the deployment of United Nations peacekeeping troops.



## Daughter of Brando arrested

Paris - Catherine Brando, the daughter of Marlon Brando, was arrested yesterday in Orleans (Susan Bell writes). She is wanted in connection with the May 9th murder of her boyfriend, Dig Doolittle, in the actor's Hollywood villa, a crime for which her brother, Christian, is serving a ten-year jail sentence.

The arrest warrant was issued in Tahiti. She was reportedly undergoing psychiatric treatment in a French clinic.

## Tanker fired on

Bangkok - Two crew members of a Thai-owned tanker have been killed and 13 captured in a naval patrol after a Burmese navy patrol boat opened fire on the ship, the navy's radio said. The Inter Bunker is ordered to stop but continued to steam on. The order to open fire was then given. (AP)

## Getting the bird

Tokyo - The small Japanese town of Kizaka has begun selling meat from the 150-200 crows captured every month to limit crop damage, the daily *Mainichi* reports. Of 11 culinary testers, only four could tell it from beef, pork and mutton. Kizaka hopes to market 640lb of the meat every year as a delicacy. (AFP)

## Black magic ban

Tegucigalpa - Honduras banned black magic practitioners as being but quacks and confidence tricksters. Francisco Cordona, the interior minister said, the move was prompted by the growing number of "witch doctors, fortune-tellers and warlocks" getting rich through people's ignorance. (Reuters)

## Laundry train goes East

From ROGEE BOYES IN WARSAW

THE scandal over Communist funding in the Soviet Union has exposed one of the murky by-products of the 1989 democratic revolutions: Central Europe has become a centre for the laundering of money.

Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia have begun privatising thousands of small businesses, including restaurants and boutiques. A similar process is under way in Romania and Bulgaria. These countries are so desperate for capital that few questions are asked about the sources of private cash.

In Czechoslovakia, 10,000 state-owned firms have been auctioned this year for a total £166 million. Where is the money coming from?

The answer is that many newly privatised companies are being bought by former black-market operators, or by local citizens backed by undeclared foreign businessmen. Pavel Rychetsky, the deputy prime minister of Czechoslovakia, claims that the Soviet Georgian mafia bought up parts of the country's most famous spa, Karlovy Vary.

Polish investigators have now acquired a copy of the Soviet central committee document, dated April 12, 1991, which sets out how party money should be deployed in Eastern Europe. In *On Co-operation with the Leftist Parties of Central and Eastern Europe*, the central committee authorises a Soviet-Polish venture on trade, tourism and consultancy projects, with profits earmarked for party use. The committee also allowed Crimean holiday homes to Western tourists. The way Soviet money was carried to Polish politicians, in briefcases, resembles shadow Western practice.

There are, of course, more run-of-the-mill laundering outlets in Eastern Europe - there are more than a dozen legal casinos in the new democracies - but restaurants, galleries and dubious import-export companies are favoured.

For the time being, mafia-style organisations can breathe easily. By the time efficient controls are introduced, the pseudo-restaurants, art lovers and boutique proprietors will have moved on to higher forms of money-washing.

## Colin's dying of cancer, but I'm damned if I'll let him win.

It's late. Colin's wife has gone to bed exhausted. Colin and I sit in the living room, a table and a pack of cards between us. He deals. He plays cautiously at first, as if he is testing me out. It's not easy to play when you know your opponent is dying of cancer. You want to protect him, to cushion him. It is tempting to let him win. But it is the wrong thing to do. It would be patronising of me and indignified for him.

I quickly take the first card. Immediately Colin gathers the cards up. He knows he's got a real game on his hands and he's going to enjoy it. As a Marie Curie nurse, I've spent countless nights in homes like this, caring for a patient who's dying of cancer. I'm here to give the relatives some desperately needed rest. And I can also provide support and comfort for the patient. The last days of a person's life can be the most important days of all. Please help us to continue this vital work. Send your donation to Marie Curie Cancer Care, 28 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QG. For credit card donations Tel: 071-823 1907.

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## 12 OVERSEAS NEWS

# Anti-Duke camp invokes spectre of 'Fourth Reich'

FROM PETER STOTHARD IN NEW ORLEANS

AS LOUISIANA'S two million voters go to the polls today they will be watched more closely than ever by the White House and the world's media. The battle for the governorship between David Duke, a former Ku Klux Klansman, and Edwin Edwards, the corruption-tainted Democrat, has already redefined US racial politics.

If Mr Duke wins the respectability of state governorship despite intense criticism, the rewriting of the political rule book will proceed apace. Even if he loses, his momentum is unlikely to be halted. At a rally on Thursday night in New Orleans, attended by 4,000 Edwards' supporters consuming free beer and hot dogs, a prominent local mayor made a speech which few Americans can ever expect to have heard.

Sam Caruso said that if Mr Duke were elected, first they would knock on the door at night for the Jews, next for the blacks, and then for the Catholics and Italians. "I'm Catholic and Italian, and I'm not going to be pushed to the place that David Duke has reserved for the Jews, the ash-can of history." Excited applause greeted the statement that "Louisiana is not the Fourth Reich".

Mr Edwards' supporters on Thursday night held an extraordinary range of political

views. They included Jim Forrester, a Vietnam veteran and libertarian conservative, who liked what Mr Duke was saying about putting an end to racial discrimination in favour of blacks but did not like hearing it from the mouth of a former Nazi and anti-Semite. Like most Americans, Mr Forrester believes that the so-called "affirmative action programmes" which emerged from the civil rights legislation of the 1960s are unfair. But in his view, as in the view of many others, the messenger has polluted the message, a problem which President Bush and Washington's politicians will now have to grapple with for years.

Mr Forrester's sister, Caroline, supports Mr Duke because she puts his social and economic message above the problems of the messenger. She also dislikes the liberal aura of sexual licence that has appeared to surround Mr Edwards throughout his career. This election contest has caused deep wounds within Louisiana which will not quickly heal.

Connie Cavalin, an expensively dressed businesswoman from New Orleans, said that she could only just bring herself to vote for Mr Edwards, whose reputation for corruption is as immense as his ego. "It is terrifying that we

have to go through this," she said. But her companion, Preston Phillips, had persuaded her to wear the Edwards badge for a few nights for the good of the state. "We would have been married by now if it hadn't been for this election," he quipped.

Today the big question is which side can best get out its vote. An 80 per cent turnout is predicted, the biggest in Louisiana history. The Edwards campaign has harnessed almost every organisation in the state to bring its supporters to the voting booths. Local television yesterday was virtually one long Edwards commercial, showing the effects of a Duke victory, grinning Texans delighted with the jobs which they had grabbed from Louisiana because no businessman could work with a fascist governor. Mr Duke himself, who has much less money to spend on advertising, was on every phone-in and chat show railing against the political and business elite which, he said, perverted his message of equal treatment for all and refused to believe his disavowal of a Nazi and Ku Klux Klan past.

American political rhetoric will be affected by this contest long after Louisianans have made their choice today.

Reagan library, page 14  
Leading article, page 15

## Poindexter conviction overturned on appeal

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

AN AMERICAN court yesterday threw out a five-count conviction of John Poindexter, the highest-ranking White House official found guilty in the Iran-Contra scandal.

The 2-1 vote by the appeals court in Washington was the second big setback this year to the prosecutor, Lawrence Walsh, who has spent almost five years and millions of dollars trying to unravel the affair. The decision came barely two months after a judge dropped three charges against Oliver North, a former national security adviser and Marine colonel, for covering up illegal sales of American arms to Iran in the 1980s and the transfer of profits to the right-wing Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

Mr Poindexter, a retired admiral, was convicted in April last year of lying to Congress, blocking efforts to learn about Iran-Contra links, and of conspiring to cover up the scandal. The overturning of his conviction came as no surprise. His lawyers had argued that prosecutors misused testimony and that the judge incorrectly instructed the jury. They also argued that their client had merely misled Congress but never lied.

Meanwhile, Elliott Abrams, a former assistant secretary of state, was sentenced yesterday to two years' probation and 100 hours of community service for his part in the scandal.



Death watch: Robert Sawyer, aged 40, wiping a tear from his eye during a hearing before the state pardon board in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. His lawyers contend that Sawyer, convicted of murder in 1979 and due to be killed yesterday in the state's first execution by lethal injection, is mentally retarded. On Death Row since 1980, Sawyer was beaten repeatedly by his father and sent to a school for mentally and physically handicapped people, where he was punished for misdemeanours with electric shocks, his family said. He was never educated and said to have an IQ of 70.

## Baker talks of rights in Peking

Peking — James Baker, the American Secretary of State, arrived in Peking yesterday on a rescue mission for bilateral relations, but made it clear Washington could not ignore concerns about human suffering and repression, even though China wanted the US to lift limited trade sanctions (Catherine Sampson writes).

In more than four hours of talks with Qian Qichen, China's foreign minister, Mr Baker "laid out that freedom is a very important principle to our people and, we believe, to people around the world," said a senior US official.

Mr Baker is the highest-level American official to visit China since the army suppression of pro-democracy demonstrators in 1989 earned the condemnation of the West. His message is expected to be that relations will deteriorate further if Peking does not make concessions on human rights, arms control and trade.

## Conservative in Bush challenge

Washington — Patrick Buchanan, America's foremost conservative pundit, has confirmed that he is likely to challenge George Bush for the Republican presidential nomination, and delighted conservatives believe there will be a first-in-nation New Hampshire primary on February 13 (Mia Feltcher writes).

"I am leaning toward it. We're getting an awful lot of support, and if the decision were held today it would probably be a 'go' decision," said the aggressive, outspoken presidential aide to Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan, promising a decision soon.

## Pretoria pleads

Johannesburg — Dr Jerrit Viljoen, minister of constitutional development, said that equal bills would be introduced to approve constitutional changes. Opposition conservatives had demanded a draft bill concerning rights in referendum as a step to black majority rule.

## Army accused

Manila — Senator Juan Ponce Enrile has withdrawn from the race to be a presidential candidate in next year's election. He said his decision was made in an attempt to unite the opposition National party, but he denounced Eduardo Cojuangco and Salvador Laurel, his two rivals for the party's nomination.

## Enrile retracts

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## Riotous rock

Wellington — Two people were stabbed, others suffered drug overdoses, and more than 50 were arrested at a concert by the rock group AC/DC, the first but one of a world tour after Thursday's concert. New Zealand police had to deal with thefts and disorderly behaviour in the city by fans. (Reuter)

## Khmer Rouge get cold feet

BY DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

SON Sen, the security chief of the Khmer Rouge, has reservations about his return to the Cambodian capital as part of the new Supreme National Council to run the country.

Instead of returning tomorrow as planned, he will send an advance guard to assess the mood in Phnom Penh before he returns to the capital his cadres emptied at gunpoint 16 years ago, and is expected back early next week. Hun Sen, the prime minister and himself a former Khmer Rouge, says 90 per cent of Cambodians want to demonstrate against the returnees, and fears violent clashes. Perhaps significantly, Khieu Samphan, the smiling public face of the Khmer Rouge and chief aide to its leader, has not indicated when he will return.

When they do go back, the Khmer Rouge will bring the history of Cambodia full circle — all fled the corrupt regime of Prince Sihanouk, the playboy king, in the 1970s. And several, like Mr Khieu, have been ministers or officials in Sihanouk governments.

Prince Sihanouk's security men stripped Mr Khieu naked on a Phnom Penh street, photographed him and sent him on his way in 1960. Mr Khieu was one of many members of the Khmer Rouge who polished their ideology on the Left Bank in Paris under French Communist tutelage in the 1950s. He joined Prince Sihanouk's Sangkum movement when the

king moved to the left in the early 1960s in an attempt to defuse growing opposition.

Khieu Samphan, commander-in-chief during the war and later head of state, refined Khmer Rouge thinking in his 1959 thesis at the University of Paris. He deplored the dependence on American aid, the luxury of an elite, the parasitic relationship between capital and countryside, and the failure to develop agriculture.

But it was Saloth Sar, under the nom de guerre Pol Pot, who put into radical practice the economic logic of Mr Khieu and the Khmer Rouge politics of the Left Bank. Pol Pot's methods are said to have appalled even the Chinese, but there is no evidence that he has changed his approach as he overtook the Khmer Rouge from the Cardomom mountains in southwest Cambodia.

Already the Khmer Rouge are pressing for the dismantling of Tuol Sleng, the former high school and torture centre that has become such a vivid memorial because the murderers meticulously photographed so many of their victims.

As Hun Sen said yesterday: "Whoever would like to implement a policy of destroying drug overdoses, and more than 50 were arrested at a concert by the rock group AC/DC, the first but one of a world tour after Thursday's concert. New Zealand police had to deal with thefts and disorderly behaviour in the city by fans. (Reuter)

## Fur parade for jailbirds ruffles activists' feathers

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

ACTIVISTS for animal rights would normally be delighted to see one of New York's biggest fur dealers behind bars. But neither they nor any exponents of the politically correct philosophy were amused when Daniel Antonovich, a flamboyant furrier, staged a parade for 250 female prisoners in the tough Rikers Island jail.

Times are tough for the fur trade, what with the recession and fashionable views about cruelty to animals. The old moneyed class of American is no longer patronising Mr Antonovich's Manhattan boutiques. But, he says, poorer women still value fur: "The jails are full of Hispanic and black women, who are my best customers."

That remark alone, repeated to television cameras all day, sparked outrage from the more enlightened fashion classes. "It is horrible, offensive, disgusting and not at all appropriate," said Mallory

Israel of the Donna Karan company. Not appropriate is the ultimate term of disapprobation for the politically correct.

On Thursday, Mr Antonovich turned up at Rikers Island, a few hundred yards from Manhattan, with a bevy of celebrity models. He then recruited 18 more among the better-looking inmates, all of them awaiting trial on serious charges. Dressed in mink, lynx, fox they paraded before their captive audience. "You're special people and I love you all," the furrier declared to the alleged murderers, armed robbers and drug pushers after telling them that, "with hard work and a clean life," they might be able to buy one of his coats. These, he said, were made of "everything from Russian sable to bunny rabbits" and cost up to \$40,000 (£22,500).

While the furrier was parading in jail, New York was learning of another innovation in the justice

field. This is plan to turn a Broadway theatre into a court to try the thieves, prostitutes and cheats and other miscreants who have cast a pall over New York's show business district. One of the city's biggest impresario companies has given the Longacre theatre for a three-year trial in "community-based" law enforcement.

The judge and court officers will sit on the stage and the red plush seats in the orchestra will be available for spectators to watch justice being done. Lawyers awaiting the turn of their clients will occupy the balcony. Launching the project, Milton Mollen, the deputy mayor for public safety, rode to the footlights and intoned: "Life is a stage. A little dramatic irony touches the scheme because the first production at the Longacre, when it opened 80 years ago, was called *Is you a crook?*"

New Yorker cartoonists, Weekend Times, page 1

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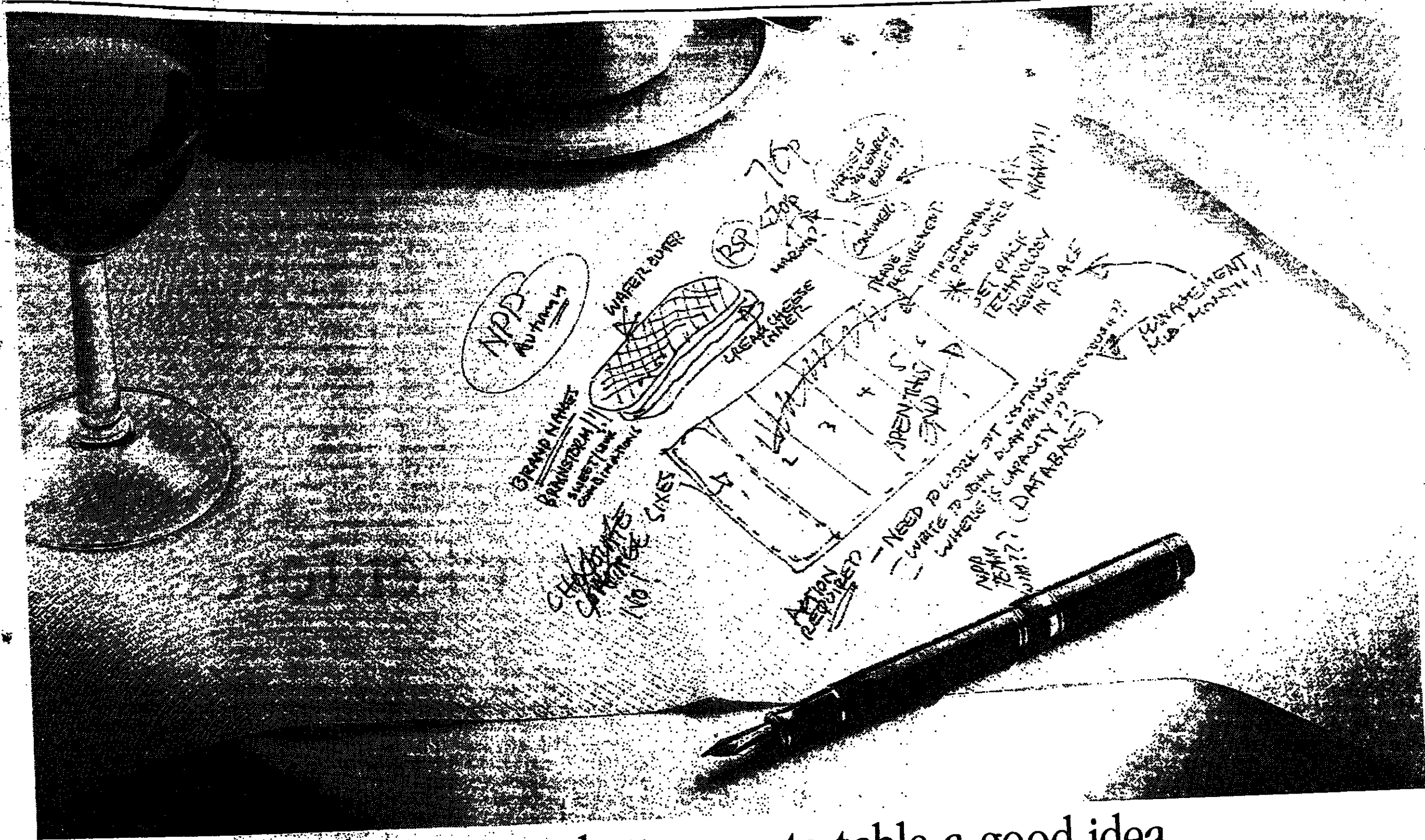
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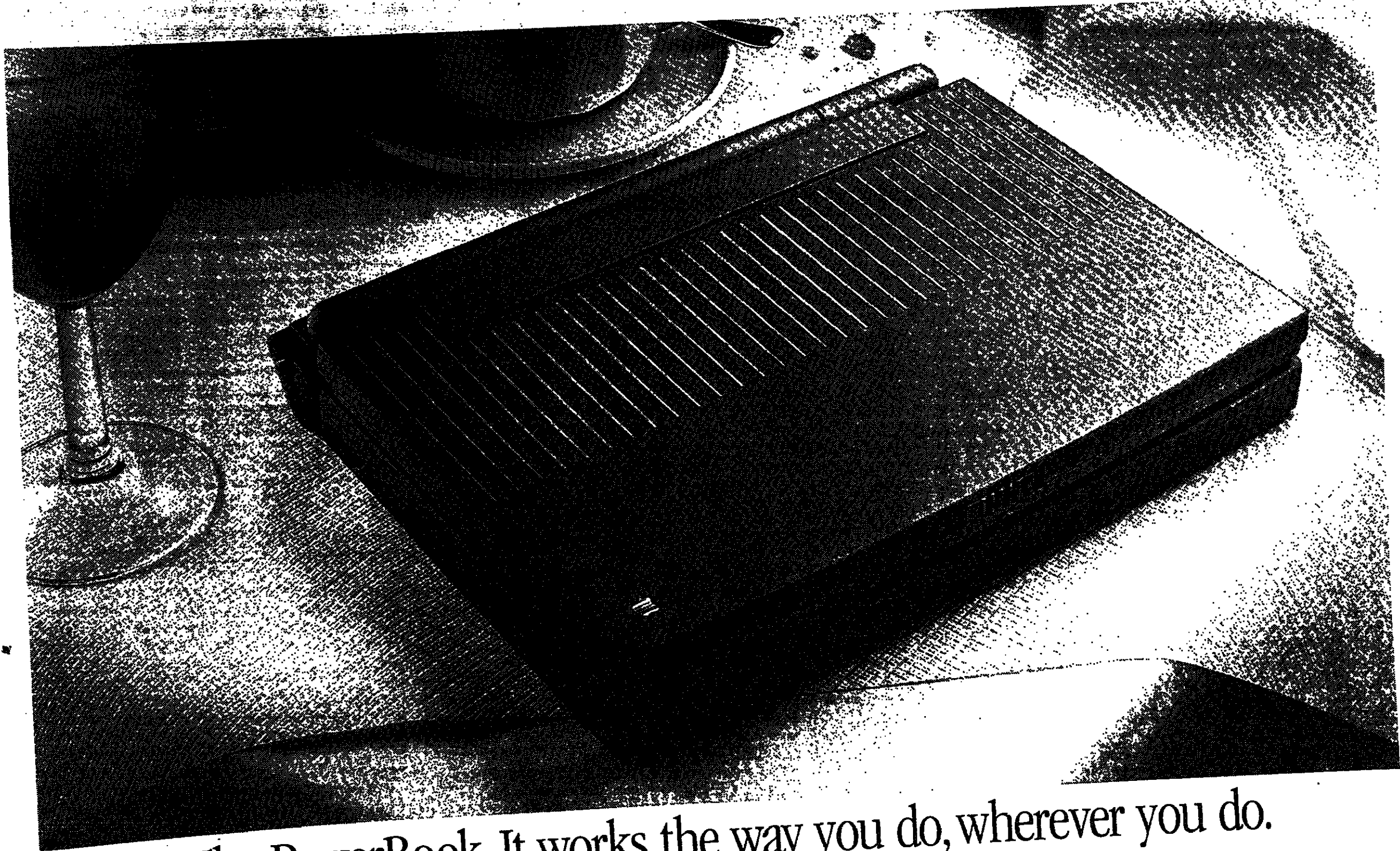
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## Clifford Longley

Feminist theology may well serve religious truth

The recent publication of *Women Included*, an unofficial prayer book which addresses God as both father and mother and sometimes just as "She", caused some nervousness among traditionalists in English Christianity. The book was compiled by the militant St Hilda Community in London and published by SPCK, the most venerable of Anglican publishers. It exemplifies an approach to religion which mixes theology with women's liberation, concludes that orthodox Christianity is far too masculine for its own good, and seeks to reconstruct (or purify) the faith in a way that does justice to the needs and expectations of modern women.

The effort deserves better than sneers and giggles. God is not the property of one sex, and women have the right to represent Him/Her in any way they want. The real test of feminist theology is whether it exists to serve the truth of religion and the good of the whole, as all genuine theology does, or whether it is a subtle way of rearranging the secular world to make it more convenient for a sectional interest. That would mean the cynical use of religion as part of a political purpose of snatching power from men to give it to women — part of the old, and entirely unreligious, battle of the sexes. It would be a mirror-image of men's misuse of religion in the past.

Though crucial to the appraisal of feminist theology, the distinction is not easy to draw. Any philosophical or psychological approach which gives credit to the poetic imagination, which takes into account the power of mythology and symbol in shaping human sensibility, must recognise that archetypes and divine images have a power which is as much cultural and political as religious. Not only would the history of European ideas, art and culture have taken an unfamiliar form if European civilisation had evolved under the influence of a female deity, relationships between the sexes would have been totally different too. The notion that the masculine is the senior or better form of human identity, the feminine the lesser, weaker, or subservient form, is rooted in archetypal patterns of sexual superiority or subordination which have existed at the deepest levels of thought and feeling since the beginning of time, to give meaning and purpose to life on the religious level.

These "sexist" ideas are now unfashionable and unacceptable. As long as they remain rooted in religion, however, they will prevail. That at least is the creed of feminist theology, and it is why such battles are thought worth fighting, even by feminists who reject religion as a vehicle of truth. Dethroning a male God is a way of undermining a male-dominated ideology, and it matters not whether a female image for God is true or religiously appropriate, so long as it helps the advance of women in their careers, their worldly relationships, or their legal position.

Even sincere religious feminists, who pursue goals such as the ordination of women because they are genuinely concerned to overcome what they see as a flaw in the sacramental order of the contemporary church, often make the mistake of speaking as if the intended ultimate beneficiary of their efforts is not Christianity but women. It may not make much difference to them, but it makes a lot of difference to the attitude of men.

What feminists have to argue is that a church with women priests, and a world with female deities, would be a better church or better world than one without them (and not just better for women, and worse for men). That is the claim of *The Myth of the Goddess* by the Jungians Anne Baring and Jules Cashford, just published by Viking. They set out to show that the unnatural suppression of female images from the concepts of God encountered in Judaism and Christianity has led to denial of an idea deeply implanted in human consciousness and necessary to its balance. For them, the rediscovery (or re-enchantment) of a female character as God is a means to overcome one of the greatest and most damaging distortions of all human thought, the bias towards masculine rationalism. It may even be a necessary condition for saving the planet. The loss of the feminine, says Sir Laurence van der Post in his foreword, "has led to the most urgent and dangerous problem of our time: the exploitation and also the rejection of our Mother Earth". To avoid planetary catastrophe, adjustment to speaking of God as "She" would be a price worth paying. And how indeed could He, in Whose image both sexes are made, be offended?

William Cash visits Ronald Reagan's Presidential Library and finds a selective view of the past

## History in the remaking

become their burial places. The snag is that presidents may be tempted to view the past from a highly selective angle. The vision of the 1980s peddled by the Reagan Library and Museum is testament to a decade that was itself marked by a readiness to skim over the facts and simplify the world into black and white.

For a start, the word "library" is a misnomer: there are virtually no books, only six million pages of official papers, most of which remain classified. Fill in a request slip for the file marked "Iran-Contra" and you will be told to come back in the next century.

The Iran-Contra débâcle is given a 250-word mention in the museum's "Peace and Freedom Gallery", where it is blandly admitted that "Every presidency has its lowest point. For the Reagan administration it was the Iran-contra scandal."

Former advisers, staff members and aides who either pleaded guilty or were tried over the scandal will be startled by the final paragraph of the summary, which states that President Reagan took "full responsibility for the incident".

In the bustling souvenir shop (which is easily the most crowded room of all), where Reagan yo-yos were selling nearly as fast as the jars of gourmet jelly beans, there are postcards showing a smiling Ronald Reagan with Pope John Paul II. There is no sight of the more famous photograph of him smoozing while the Pope addressed the Vatican.

Sunk like a gargantuan tombstone into the grassy lawn outside the shop is a great concrete chunk of the Berlin Wall, brought over as a "symbolic public display of democracy's triumph over social oppression". There is no men-

tion, however, of the controversy when Reagan laid a wreath at the German cemetery in Bitburg where SS troops lie buried.

Mrs Thatcher, who is in Los Angeles today to give a speech to the L.A. World Council on the "New World Order" and to raise funds for the Thatcher Foundation, emerges as the co-star of The Reagan Years, and is given the honour of introducing the 20-minute film at the start of the museum tour.

In the film, Reagan quotes Roosevelt saying, "history cannot be re-written by wishful thinking". In Reagan's case, the term "re-write" is more appropriate than "re-write", for most of the exhibition is audio-visual. This is appropriate for an actor-president who, at the very least, must be remembered as a master of the television interview. A video called "The American Miracle" deals with the

supposed Reagan economic recovery. The video claims that the hero-president stopped the rot and persuaded Americans to believe in themselves once again. The crippling deficit and national debt that were run up, are not mentioned. Nor is spiralling unemployment.

For "real stuff of history" footage of the Reagan assassination attempt in March 1981, visitors can put on foam headphones and hear the actual shots. Yet realistic though this is, no reference is made to the lengths the White House went to to hide from the public just how close the president had been to death.

Other areas where fact and fiction blur are Reagan's boyhood, which he suggests was spent in Dixon, Illinois, even though he was actually born in Tampico and moved house five times in a decade. Reagan's first wife, Jane

Wyman, is practically erased from the record.

Yet, in a sense, we can learn as much about an era by what officials choose not to reveal. Presenting the visitor with a version of history through the eyes of one man adds a political spice that makes the museum — rather than the archives — a rich source of study in the next century.

After 50 years, the success of presidential libraries lies in the way they turn history into a living human drama, part farce, part tragedy, part soap-opera. They work because they tell a good story and satisfy the public craving to see individual values incarnated in real people.

By creating such a library, Reagan joins the pantheon of philosophers, kings and emperors (Aristotle, Constantine the Great, President Gorbachev) who have been shrewd enough to know that bequeathing a well-stocked library is the surest way to keep one's place in the history books. As Anatole France put it: "All the historical books that contain no lies are extremely tedious."

New EC rules may threaten London's meat exchange, says Marcus Binney

The future of the most imposing of all of London's great Victorian markets is in doubt. Traders in Smithfield meat market, have been given until December 3 by the City of London Corporation to sign new leases at sharply increased rents, so that it can embark on a £50 million refurbishment programme to bring the market up to European Community standards.

Tenants who failed to meet these deadlines for approval of their premises would be out of business on December 31, 1992, said Peter Northall-Laurie, the chairman of the central markets committee.

At present most of the businesses operate on three-month licences, although some have been there a century or more. Rents average £8-£9 per square foot. Under the new ten-year leases the City is proposing, tenants are now being asked to pay £28-£30 per square foot for a shop, and £9-£10 per square foot for any associated office accommodation.

The huge refurbishment cost is the result of EC rules that carcasses must be chilled at every stage from abattoir to meat counter. Smithfield was designed in the pre-refrigeration era as a light and airy iron structure, tall enough to catch every passing breeze. The new regulations demand that all areas where meat is handled must be enclosed and temperature-controlled. Lorries will lock on to the new delivery bays like spaceships. Even the pavements throughout the market may be removed, as EC regulations demand that the public be kept away from contact with fresh meat.

Under the City's proposals (drawn up by Bath architects HLM), the famous buyers' walk running down the centre of Smithfield will remain open, though no carcasses will hang there any more. But the areas on

either side, which are now open, will be divided into enclosed units by metal partitions. These will have roller shutters along the fronts, behind which there will be a meat display.

The City hopes that some of the market's atmosphere will remain. However, the Smithfield Trust, a local conservation group, thinks the alterations are far too drastic and will destroy the character of the building internally. "The aesthetic and environmental price being paid is far too high," says its chairman, George Allen.

As well as the higher rents, the City plans to raise funds for the renovation by creating nearly 125,000 sq ft of lettable commercial space above the market. But of course the demand for City offices has fallen dramatically since the plans were conceived.

The big worries are what will happen if either the tenants decide they cannot afford the increased rents and therefore have to stop trading, or if the scheme collapses after conversion lettings does not prove viable. Two possible new uses of the site are arousing increasing interest.

The first, which should appeal to anyone who believes London needs a Paris-style grand project, is that the market should become the new home of the Museum of London. The museum is presently entombed in an inaccessible building on the edge of the Barbican, and is desperate for more space. By statute the museum must be located in the City of London and Smithfield is probably the only large site that will ever become available.

The museum's management is known to be interested in a move to the market site, not least because the 1970s office block above its present premises may be redeveloped by the end of the decade.

The second possibility is that Smithfield could be turned into



Smithfield in its heyday: is it destined to become a huge shopping centre or perhaps the site of the Museum of London?

a large retail centre. This summer, the Halpern partnership of architects wrote to all 120 members of the City's Court of Common Council on behalf of an unnamed consortium of British, American and Japanese developers, proposing the creation of such a centre. (Marks & Spencer have also expressed interest in a site in the area.)

Any change of use of the buildings or relocation of the market would require an Act of Parliament. However it would not be the first change in the market's long history, nor the first to be dictated by the introduction of more stringent public health standards.

Smithfield, or "Smoothfields" as it was originally called, was a medieval cattle

market. It continued in business on the same site until well into the 19th century, when the problems of driving livestock through heavily built-up areas caused Charles Dickens and others to mount a vigorous campaign for change.

The result was the splendid Caledonia market, built in 1855, north of King's Cross, of which only the clocktower remains. A decade later the commission for a new meat market at Smithfield was given to the city surveyor Sir Horace Jones, architect of London's two other distinctive Victorian markets, Billingsgate and Leadenhall.

Beneath Smithfield, Sir Horace constructed a vast lorry marshalling yard (which continued to operate until the 1930s).

From here carcasses were brought up on hydraulic lifts directly into the market. The existence of this huge underground area could provide the parking for thousands of cars essential to a big retail centre, or enclosed exhibition space and storage areas for the Museum of London.

Smithfield will, moreover, be astride two Parisian-style regional railways as well as the Circle and Metropolitan lines. Thameslink already stops at Farringdon station, just three or four minutes walk from the market, and Crossrail, the new link from Paddington to the City, will stop at Farringdon too.

In view of the December 3 deadline, it is vital that the City

and its tenants reach agreement very soon if Smithfield is to continue as a meat market. (The City, which has overseen the moves of both Spitalfields and Billingsgate markets to Docklands, believes that relocation of the meat market is impossible. And a tenants' committee formed to investigate alternative sites nine months ago has not reported.) Now that Paris's Les Halles has been demolished, Smithfield stands out as the most monumental and impressive of all 19th-century markets. Its future needs to be watched with the greatest care. If it proves impossible to maintain the meat market on its historic site, the best possible alternative use must be found for its outstanding buildings.



...and moreover  
**PHILIP HOWARD**

In language, at least, there is neither recession nor unemployment. Productivity may be down in earlier manufacturing, but with words, we are the most prolific generation since Babel. A dictionary of new words comes out about once a month, adding to the stock of linguistic pleasure and outrage. The tale is full of noises, mostly chat-shows and phone-ins and disco-jockeys on our gross superfluity of broadcasting channels, giving the woman and man in the street a right to the mike, and a voice on "national" airtime. At any one moment, there are more people broadcasting rubbish than there are listening to it. A generation ago, only the elite and highly educated could make their voices heard nationally and around the world. The man and woman in the street were the silent witnesses of history. Today the public word is available for everyone. And accordingly, you read and hear some pretty extraordinary words.

In a utopian republic, we should have a committee of philosophers and etymologists to vet each proposed new word, make sure that it was correctly derived, and then give it a licence to join the national word stock. Thank heavens we do not live in a utopian republic. Our vocabulary is a vast, steaming compost of words, being created and fading away, and subject to the survival of the fittest.

The silliest new words are created not by the man in the street, but by the professionals in

the media, trying to impress. This year's Edinburgh Festival directed visitors to the "Auditory Music Centre". As opposed to the Olfactory Music Centre, Jock? There is a feeling among word-makers that a classical ending sounds more posh than coarse Anglo-Saxon. So in Edinburgh there is now a Floatarium, offering some sort of water therapy. That Latin suffix -arium is found in words derived from a Latin adjective, such as honorarium and herbarium. It looks a bit exotic stuck on the end of the very Germanic word "float". A lot of language is exotic.

In Edinburgh there is also a Textorium, which I think must be a market for textiles. This is thought to sound grander than a draper's or a shop sign for "auld claes". That -orium suffix has the sense of a place for a thing. The English form of these words, taken through the Norman French ending -ori, is -ory. But some of them, like sanatorium, have preserved their Latin form. The nicest scholars have difficulty in distinguishing between the suffixes -arium and -orium. And I do not think our coiners of with-it new names for old shops need strain to do so. I look forward to meeting, in disgustingly debased Prince's Street, my first fruitorium and shirtarium.

I do not see why one of our newly privatised water companies does not make use of the respectable and ancient name "aquarium". The inelegant "solarium" is widely used to

mean either a sundial or a room for exposure to the sun or infra-red rays so as to acquire skin cancer and a sun-tan to impress the people at work.

There is a popular notion abroad in the trendy onomastic business of naming that the suffix -teria implies self-service. For example, in Hamilton, Ontario, the Yum Yum Oriental Groccertaria takes the name to mean that you help yourself, and pay as you go out, as we do in supermarkets and hypermarkets here. (Note those impressive old classical affixes, one Latin, the other Greek.)

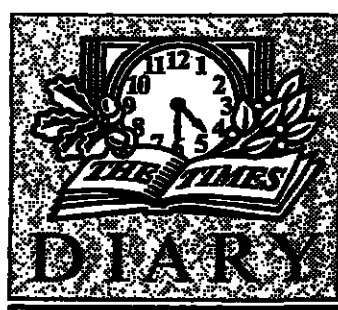
The -teria suffix has a romantic history. Coffee comes from the Turkish pronunciation of the Arabic qahwah, which means wine, but also coffee. It is supposed to come ultimately from Kaffa, the name of a part of Abyssinia, the native home of the coffee plant. It changed its first vowel through the Dutch Koffie, and passed in its cognate forms into all the languages of Europe. In Spanish it became café. It crossed the Atlantic to the Spanish colonies in the New World, where a cafetero became the name for a planter, or picker, or seller of coffee. I do not think we need go into the Spanish American use of café to mean either displeasure or an unpleasant time. From cafetero came the cafeterias and groccertarias which will shortly invade Prince's Street. After such an adventurous journey, it seems feeble to complain that this is not what the word means.

## KGB and the female touch

PRIME MINISTERS and foreign secretaries cannot compete with their wives in dealing with the KGB, it seems. Judy Hurd has pulled off a diplomatic coup which eluded both John Major and her husband, Douglas, the foreign secretary.

President Gorbachev and Vadim Bakatin, the liberal head of the KGB, rejected the terms of the Hurd and Hurd for the terminally ill Soviet scientist Simon Smolyar to be given permission to emigrate to Israel. He wanted to spend the last few months of his life in Tel Aviv with his two sons. His case was being championed along with other refugees by Britain. When Major met Gorbachev in Moscow soon after the failed coup, he handed the Soviet leader a list of names of those refused permission to emigrate. Smolyar was at the top of the list.

At another meeting in Moscow, during the CSCE human rights conference in September, the Smolyar case was raised again by the British. The Soviet authorities refused to budge because Smolyar had worked on secret defence projects, including radar work on the MiG aircraft. They claimed he had access to national security secrets. But the KGB, it appears, could not resist the charms of Mrs Hurd. She met Mrs Smolyar in the British embassy in Moscow and was moved by the couple's plight. Even before she left Moscow to return home, she had written to Bakatin beseeching a change of heart. Within weeks the KGB responded. The Smolyars were told that objections to their emigration had mysteriously been dropped. Two days later they arrived in Tel Aviv.



Now we know. Sir Joseph Baring, who was in the chair at October's Tory party conference for Mrs Thatcher's much publicised arrival, let slip at Thursday's meeting of the Tories' National Union executive committee that he never received a hastily scribbled note from the former premier urging an end to the tumultuous applause. Apparently, he received a "divine message" from her.

## Untransported

IN THE week the Department of Transport issued a staff notice banning the display of sexually offensive material, a painting of a naked woman, in a variety of suggestive poses, went up in Malcolm Rifkind's Whitehall headquarters. The picture, *The Grass is Greener on the Other Side*, won a Department of Transport competition judged by Roger Freeman, the junior transport minister.

Women staff, outraged by the painting, complained to the Equal Opportunities Commission, and it was hastily taken down. Solange Eskenazi, the artist, was surprised by the fuss. "It's a depiction of the human spirit trapped in a ceaseless journey to find something better." Well it may be. But the transport secretary loathed it. So did most of the staff, judging by the number of complaints re-

ceived by the staff newspaper, *DTP News*. The editor tactfully published a colour photograph of the painting in the latest issue for those employees who had not seen it.

## They mitre starved

THE homeless of Gloucester are particularly upset by the departure last week of their Bishop, the Rt Rev John Yates, to Lambeth Palace, where he is now head of staff. Yates, who was bishop for 16 years, always had a long queue outside the back door of his home, tempted by the aromas of the cooking of his wife Jean.



His intimate knowledge of the culinary peccadilloes of his guests would have been the envy of many a head chef. "Most people who came to our house enjoyed the food," he says. "My wife is a very fine cook. We always had turkey sandwiches at Christmas for the homeless."

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## Caviare to the admiral

PHOTOGRAPHS of the Beluga Soviet research submarine have been obtained for the first time in the West. Military intelligence may be excited, but most observers will be more intrigued by a pound-for-pound comparison to the other submarine Beluga.

The craft was photographed a week ago by members of a Ministry of Defence press party at the Balaklava naval base on the Black Sea, who were led to the vessel by accident. The 200 ft Beluga was built at Leningrad and completed in February 1987.

But the vessel weighs in at much less than the delicacy with which it shares its name. Such an advanced craft is thought by experts to be worth at least £130 million. But a similar weight of Beluga caviare (1,900 tonnes) bought from Fortnum & Mason would cost almost £3,000 million.

Among those mourning the passing of the film director Tony Richardson, is the writer Marjorie Gray, who only this week was asked by publishers Sinclair Stevenson to write the story of the Redgrave dynasty. Now Vanessa's first husband has gone to the grave with his secrets, her job will be that much harder. Carpe diem.





## SLIPPERY FEDERAL SLOPE

# POLITICALLY INCORRECT

## FEATHERED FRIENDS

boots across the clubhouse floor, not so their fingers stick to valuable ornaments on the farmhouse mantelpiece. As its Latin name suggests, the ostrich was designed by the same ingenious committee that produced the camel. Farmers may think they have few friends, but the feathered *struthio camelus* is sure to become one of them.

## Reading at seven

## Thameslink 2000

Yours faithfully,  
**CHARLES ASHTON**,  
 Avoncourt House,  
 Milton Lilbourne,  
 Pewsey, Wiltshire.  
 November 14.

University of Reading,  
 Department of Classics,  
 Whiteknights, PO Box 218,  
 Reading, Berkshire.

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**Business letters, pages 2**

**Business letters, pages 22, 30**





The bride was given in marriage by her father and was attended by Leonora and Octavia Service, Susannah Rashleigh Belcher, Catriona and Alistair Blackwell and Amy and George Rashleigh Belcher. Mr John-George Philipps was best man.

ne marriage took place  
uently on October 19, 1991, at  
t Mary's, Compton Dando,  
etween Christopher, eldest son  
f Mrs Nancie and the late  
r Robert Stephenson, of  
bergavenny, and Barbara  
obbie), only daughter of Mr  
William and the late Mrs Betty  
ane, of Halesowen.

# TONY RICHARDSON

the role of Archie Rice persuaded Olivier to return to contemporary drama and drew from him, under Richardson's guidance, one of his greatest plays.

Richardson remained true to his declared intention of bringing ideas — and authors of stature — back to the theatre. Sometimes he was successful: he acted as nursemaid and director to Nigel Dennis when *Cards of Identity* was turned from novel into play. Sometimes he flopped: nothing could save the adaptation of William Faulkner's *Requiem for a Nun*. Always his mind was on the next project or the next project but one. He was forever off "to a meeting with someone." Richardson rarely said where, with whom and least of all what the subject might be. But it was clear

ing house in Las Vegas named the Flamingo, which caught the attention of a local magazine. In 1936, he and his wife, a former showgirl, moved to Las Vegas and opened the Flamingo. The company also published a collection of books based on documentation of the Flamingo period under the title of *Dancing Kings*, which raised a storm of controversy through its expensive publicity campaign. His other business interests included shares in two banks and supermarkets as well as control of the Flamingo Casino.

Happily married for over 50 years, he had three sons and a daughter who all became involved in the various family businesses. They and his widow, Elli, survive him.

## Marriages

The bride was given in marriage by her father and was attended by Leonora and Octavia Service, Susannah Asleigh Belcher, Catriona and Distair Blackwell and Amy and George Asleigh Belcher. Mr John-George Phillips was best man.

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Latest appointments include:  
**Mr John Field** to be British High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and British High Commissioner (non-resident) to the Maldives, in succession to **Mr D. A. S. Gladstone**.  
**Professor Roy Hutchesson Campbell** to be a member of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts.  
**Admiral Sir Jeremy Black** to be

Mr J.D. Fausset to be Assistant Under Secretary of State (Civilian Management) (Specialists) in the Ministry of Defence.

**Mr Michael Samuel Rich, QC, and Mr Stephen John Lindsay Oliver, QC, to be circuit judges, assigned to the South Eastern Circuit.**

Mr. J. L. Lowther, Lord  
Lieutenant of Northampton-  
shire, 68; Sir Charles Mackerras,  
Director, 66; Sir Godfrey  
Mosses, former chairman,  
Central Group, 67; Sir Leslie  
Murphy, non-executive director,  
CEL Group, 76; Lord  
Pearson, 75; Professor L.H.  
Rees, dean, Bartholomew's  
Hospital Medical College, 49;  
Mr Jonathan Ross, broadcaster,  
31; the Right Rev. John  
Satterthwaite, Bishop of Glouc-  
ster in Europe, 66; the Right Rev  
Cyril Tucker, former Bishop of  
the Falkland Islands, 80; Mr  
John Wells, writer, actor and  
director, 55; the Earl of  
Winchelsea, 55.

Mr G.C. McLean  
and Miss C.L. Clement  
The engagement is announced  
between Gary, only son of Mr  
and Mrs Cameron McLean, of  
Hadley Wood, Hertfordshire  
and Louise, only daughter of Dr  
and Mrs R.J. Clement, of  
Freeport, Bahamas.

Mr W.J. Russell Flint  
and Miss C.M. McCall  
The engagement is announced  
between William James  
Francis Russell, son of the late Mr  
Francis Russell, Flint, and of  
Mrs Susan Russell Flint, of  
Pulborough, West Sussex, and  
Christine Maude, only daughter  
of Mr and Mrs John McCall, of  
Belknap, West Sussex.

Gaudy January 11, 1992: Old Members of the College who matriculated in the years 1980 and 1981, and who have not yet received an invitation, are requested to write to the Domestic Bureau with an up-to-date address so that one may be posted without delay.

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## Luncheon

HM Government  
The Hon. Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, held a luncheon yesterday at 1 Carlton Gardens in honour of M. Jacques Attali, President of the European Bank.

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## BBC 1

- 7.25 Weather**
- 7.30 Ovide.** Animated adventures of a duck-billed platypus (r) 7.40 **Opposites Attract.** Derek Griffiths continues his nature series for children (s) 7.50 **The Jetsons.** Cartoon adventures of a space family (r) 8.15 **Chuckleduck.** Paul and Barry become non-verbal carefree (r) (s) 8.35 **Dungeons and Dragons.** Animated adventures (r)
- 9.00 Going Live!** Young people's entertainment magazine presented by Phillip Schofield and Sarah Greene. The guests include England rugby union captain Will Carling, London's *Burning Stars* Sean Blowers and Stephen North, American author Paula Danziger and singer Marika. Plus cartoons, videos, music, news and reviews (s) 12.12 **Weather**
- 12.15 Grandstand** introduced by Steve Rider. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.20 and 1.15 **Football:** a review of the week's European championship matches and a preview of this afternoon's first round of the FA Cup; 12.55, 1.25 and 2.00 **Racing** from Ascot; 1.10 **News:** 1.40 **Rugby League** and **Boxing**; previews of this afternoon's live Regal Trophy, round one, televised game between Warrington and Leeds and Frank Bruno's come-back bout on Wednesday against the Dutchman John Emsen; 2.15 **Motor Sport:** action from the Bathurst, Australia's leading touring car race; 2.50 and 3.50 **Rugby League:** live coverage of the Regal Trophy, round one, game between Warrington and Leeds at the Warrington Stadium; 3.40 **Football** half-time; 4.35 **Final Score**
- 5.00 News and weather**
- 5.10 Regional News and sport.** Wales (to 5.45) **Wales on Saturday**
- 5.15 One to Win.** Three more contestants compete for a luxury holiday in the trivia quiz hosted by Andrew O'Connor. (Ceefax) (s)
- 5.45 Only Fools and Horses.** Del sees a chance of earning easy money when he is offered a dog-sitting job while the owner is on holiday. David Jason and Nicholas Lyndhurst star in John Sullivan's priceless comedy (r) (Teletext)
- 6.15 Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game.** More family pairs compete for the chance of winning the conveyor belt goodies, egged on by Bruce and Rosemary Ford. (Ceefax) (s)
- 7.15 Challenge Anneka.** In the last programme of the series Miss Rice has three days to build a toothbrush over the Camel, the river that bisects the Cornish town of Wadebridge. The foundations have already been laid but the search is on for the steel, a huge crane and the workers to construct the spanner. (Ceefax)
- 8.05 Birds of a Feather.** Streetwise comedy starring Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson as sisters with husbands serving prison sentences. This week Sharon volunteers to look after a cat her incarcerated husband has inherited and opens in sister Tracy and flamboyant next-door neighbour Dorien (Lesley Joseph) to do the mental tasks. (Ceefax) (s)
- 8.35 The House of Eliott.** The final episode of the polished *haute couture* drama following the fortunes of two sisters who own a fashion house. They learn that a rival house is unveiling its collection at the same time as their own and decide to bring forward their show by a fortnight, but the day is highlighted by accusations of plagiarism. Stella Gonet and Louise Lombard play the sisters. (Ceefax) (s)
- 9.30 News with Michael Buerk.** (Ceefax) Sport and weather
- 9.50 Saturday Night Cive.** Cive James is joined in the studio by Peter Cook to cast an amused eye over the world's off-beat television offerings
- 10.35 Match of the Day: The Road to Wembley.** Demand Lynn introduces highlights from this afternoon's FA Cup first round matches, which give a chance to non-league sides to topple third and fourth division opponents.

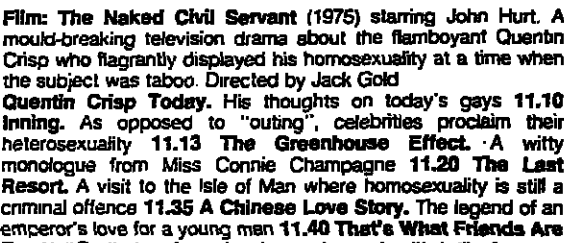


Cadet "minder": Robert Prosky with David Keith (11.35pm)

- 11.35 Film: The Lords of Discipline** (1983) starring David Keith, Robert Prosky and G.D. Spradlin. Strong drama from British director Franc Roddam about a South Carolina military academy that enrolls its first coloured cadet. The young man is given a "minder" to protect his life and the good name of the academy. (Ceefax)
- 1.15am Weather**

## BBC 2

- 8.45 Open University**
- 11.05 Science of a documentary** about Burma's travesty river (r) **12.05 Holiday Outings.** Logic hotel hospitality in the Lot valley (r) **1.15 Film: The Happiest Days of Your Life** (1950, b/w). **CHOICE:** Ronald Searle's drawings of awful schoolgirls adorn the titles of a merry farce featuring some of Britain's best comic talent in top form. The source of Frank Launder's film was a stage hit by John Dighton about a mistake of wartime bureaucracy which results in a girls' school having to share with a school for boys. The headmistress is played with military bluntness by the incomparable Margaret Rutherford. The headmaster, oozing bewilderment charm, is the equally treasured Alastair Sim. Their antagonism, which turns to reluctant co-operation when the inspectors arrive, forms the comic core of the film. There are additional delights in Joyce Grenfell's brightly lit Miss Gossage ("call me sausage"), Launder and his collaborator Sidney Gilliat went to make the St Trinian's films in similar vein. But the jokes were fresher here and the film is in similar vein. But the jokes were fresher here and the film is in similar vein. But the jokes were fresher here and the film is in similar vein.
- 1.35 Animation Now.** *Scarsoor*, a short from China. 1.45 **Heals and Graces.** Lady Victoria Leatham visits Highclere Castle, Newbury (r)
- 2.15 Network East.** Includes a profile of top Indian film star Anil Kapoor **2.45 Mahabharat.** Episode 72 of the 93-part Indian epic
- 3.25 Past and Present Preserved.** A history of the pedal bicycle (r)
- 3.40 Film: Running Brave** (1983) starring Robby Benson and Pat Hingle. The true story of Billy Mills who left his Sioux reservation in order to fulfill his potential as a runner. Directed by D.S. Everett
- 5.30 Play Bridge with Zia** presented by Zia Mahmood
- 5.50 Japanese - Language and People.** The ten-part series concludes with a look at Japan's changing lifestyles in the 1990s
- 6.20 Have I Got News For You?** Lighthearted news quiz (r) (s)
- 6.50 News and sport** followed by weather
- 7.05 Sounds of the 60s** (s)
- 7.35 The Second Russian Revolution.** Why efforts to move the Soviet Union to a market economy ended in failure (r) (Ceefax)
- 8.35 Saturday Night Out** begins with *The Gay Rock 'n' Roll Years*. **CHOICE:** More than five hours of programmes on gay themes are introduced with an entertaining trip down memory lane in the style of *The Rock 'n' Roll Years*. The starting point is 1954 when Doris Day (not a member of the gay party) topped the charts and the Wolfenden committee was set up. A collage of pop song and news clips brings the story of gay issues up to the present day. The selection is presumably deliberate but often puzzling. Joe Orton and Rock Hudson are there for obvious reasons, and so is Martina Navratilova. Judy Garland gets a mention because of her gay life following. The inclusion of other figures, particularly from the pop world, may set viewers guessing. At least there can be no doubts about Mrs Thatcher, while the Rev Ian Paisley's "Save Ulster From Sodomy" campaign is also unambiguous
- 9.20 Terms of Endearment.** Gary Bushell, Peter Mackay and Auberon Waugh on why they are opposed to homosexuality 9.25 *To Be or Not To Be*... Sir Ian McKellen, Simon Callow, Anthony Sher and others challenge the theatre's reputation for sexual tolerance



Flamboyant homosexual: John Hurt as John Hurt (9.50pm)

- 9.50 Film: The Naked Civil Servant** (1975) starring John Hurt. A mould-breaking television drama about the flamboyant Quentin Crisp who flagrantly displayed his homosexuality at a time when the subject was taboo. Directed by Jack Gold
- 11.05 Quentin Crisp Today.** His thoughts on today's gays 11.10 **Inning.** As opposed to "outing", celebrities proclaim their homosexuality 11.13 **The Greenhouse Effect.** A witty monologue from Miss Connie Champagne 11.20 **The Last Resort.** A visit to the life of a man where homosexuality is still a criminal offence 11.35 **A Chinese Love Story.** The legend of an emperor's love for a young man 11.40 **The Whistling Willows Are For Neil Barrett** performs his dramatic about what life is like for a gay man today 11.47 **Suddenly Last Summer.** Tennessee lection Huffly takes a walk at this year's Pickering Glass ladies tennis tournament 12.00 **A Book at Bedtime.** Janis Perry reads her love story 12.05am **Futures.** Maureen Duffy, Professor Stuart Hall and Jeffrey Weeks discuss their past hopes and future predictions for homosexuality 12.25 **Some of My Best Friends.** Interviews with young black film-makers 12.40 **Tongue Tied.** Marion Riggs' film about being black and gay in the United States. Ends at 1.40

## ITV

- 6.00 TV-am**
- 9.25 Motormouth.** Young people's entertainment magazine presented by Neil Buchanan, Andy Crane and Gaby Roslin. This week's edition includes pop group Take That and Terry Nutkin with news of a special seal sanctuary in Scotland
- 11.30 The Chart Show.** The Vintage Video features Tina Turner singing "The Best" (s)
- 12.30 Superman.** Animated adventures of the American comic strip hero
- 1.00 News** with Fiona Armstrong. Weather 1.05 **LWT News** and weather
- 1.10 Saint and Greavale.** Ian and Jimmy reflect on this week's European championship matches and look forward to this afternoon's FA Cup first round games and tomorrow's live televised game at Upton Park between West Ham and Liverpool
- 2.00 Film: Golf.** Highlights of the Merrill Lynch shoot out
- 3.00 Film: Paley by (1985)** starring Michael J. Fox and Nancy McKoon. Anodyne made-for-television comedy set in a summer camp where pranks and romance are the staple diet. Directed by Larry Elkann
- 4.45 Results Service** presented by Eton Wealby
- 5.00 News** with Fiona Armstrong. Weather 5.05 **LWT News** and weather
- 5.10 10 Sharp! Pat Sharp** talks to pop group Take That and to former Labour MP Ashley Patel (s)
- 5.25 Catchphrase.** Quiz game show hosted by Roy Walker
- 5.55 Baywatch.** Sun-drenched adventures of a group of Los Angeles lifeguards. This week they come across a group of homeless people camping on the beach - and inside a life-guard tower. Starring David Hasselhoff. (Oracle) (s)
- 6.45 Blind Date.** Cilla Black again plays cupid for romantic hopefuls of all ages. (Oracle)
- 7.45 Stay Lucky.** Comedy drama starring Dennis Waterman and Jan Francis as a pair of opposites who commence a romance. They reluctantly agree to accompany Sally to a music-hall on her gay uncle Leonard (veteran actor Leslie Sands) and discovers the allure of the greasepaint. (Oracle) (s)
- 8.45 News** with Fiona Armstrong. Weather

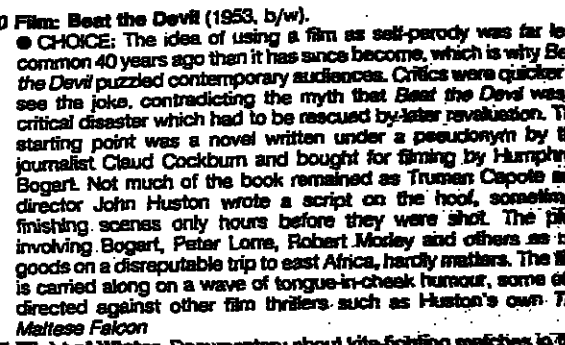


Thoroughly modern Billy the Kid: Emilio Estevez (9.05pm)

- 9.05 Film: Young Guns** (1988). **CHOICE:** The first film featuring Billy the Kid appeared in 1911 and there have been dozens since. Most have drawn on the real events while bending the truth to fit the whims of a star or a director. For Howard Hughes in *The Outlaw Billy* became an American coup by James Russell. The Left-Handed Gun to play Billy in the method style. In the 1970s Sam Peckinpah retold the story with his relish for violence. *Young Guns* is the 1980s version, featuring the Hollywood bad pack reinforced by Terence Stamp and western veterans Jack Palance and Brian Keith. Emilio Estevez is a thoroughly modern Billy, supported by his brother Charlie Sheen and Kiefer Sutherland. Director Christopher Cain combines a fashionable dramatic setting with a fidelity to such traditional western elements as the gunfight, the cattle brawl and the lonely walk through the one-street town. (Oracle) (s)
- 11.05 Tour of Duty.** American drama series about a group of conscripts on duty in Vietnam during the war
- 12.05am Ten Pin Bowling.** Highlights of the 1991 British open from Nottingham
- 1.10 New Music.** Videos and interviews presented by Denise Donlan
- 2.10 Night Heat.** Canadian police drama. This week a waitress in a cheap restaurant overhears a conversation between an up-and-coming politician and a leading gangster. Starring Scott Hylands
- 3.10 Coach.** Comedy series about an American college football coach
- 3.40 WCW Pro Wrestling.** More grunt, grapple and groan
- 4.40 The Hit Man and Her.** The latest news from the disco scene introduced by Pete Waterman and Michaela Strachan
- 5.30 ITN Morning News.** Ends at 6.00

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Comic Book.** Cartoon kaleidoscope 8.55 *Once upon a Time... a Space.* An exploration of outer space through the eyes of animated characters 7.25 *Sporting Years to Remember.* This week's *Pathe News* footage covers the years 1925-1930 7.55 *Trans World Sport.*
- 9.00 News** summary followed by **Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line**
- 9.30 Sense Difference.** The magazine on disability issues investigates toxic agricultural (r)
- 10.00 Travelog.** Travel programme for the non-package holidaymaker (r) (Teletext) (s)
- 10.30 Wagon Train: The Stagecoach Story** (b/w)
- 11.30 Tony Jackson's Pro-Celebrity Golf Challenge.** Sam Torrance and Ted Dexter take on Ronan Rafferty and Chris de Burgh (r)
- 12.30 American Football: Red 42** (s)
- 1.30 Film: Fast Company** (1988, b/w). Melvyn Douglas plays a bookseller turned detective in this comedy thriller about a murder and valuable missing library books. Directed by Edward Buzzell



Unruly diggers: Gina Lollobrigida, Humphrey Bogart (2.20pm)

- 2.20 Film: Best of the Devil** (1953, b/w). **CHOICE:** The idea of using a film as self-parody was far less common 40 years ago than it is these days, which is why *Best of the Devil* puzzled contemporary audiences. Critics were quicker to see the joke, contradicting the myth that *Best of the Devil* was a critical disaster which had to be rescued by later re-evaluation. The starting point was a novel written under a pseudonym by the journalist Claud Cockburn and bought for filming by Humphrey Bogart. Not much of the book remained as the screenplay and the director John Huston wrote a script on the hoof, sometimes finishing scenes only hours before they were shot. The plot, involving Bogart, Peter Lorne, Robert Moberly and others as so-called on a disreputable trip to east Africa, hardly matters. The film is carried along on a wave of tongue-in-cheek humour, some of it directed against other film makers such as Huston's own *The Maltese Falcon*
- 4.05 Flight of Whiter.** Documentary about kite-fighting matches in the Indian city of Lahore (r)
- 5.05 Brookside Omnibus** (r) (Teletext) (s)
- 6.30 News** summary and weather followed by *Flight to Nepal* presented by Rory McGrath. (Teletext) (s)
- 7.00 South.** Magazine featuring work by film-makers from developing countries. The items include a profile of the assassinated African leader, Thomas Sankara, and an investigation into the attempted Caribbean coup by black Muslims
- 8.00 Film: The Card** (1952, b/w). Engaging light comedy, adapted from the Arnold Bennett novel by Eric Ambler, about a poor westerner's son (Alec Guinness) who rises above his humble origins in the potteries to achieve wealth and power. Also in the cast are Glynnis Johns, Valerie Hobson and a youthful Peter Clark. Directed by Ronald Neame. (Teletext)
- 9.40 Noel Stoop Hollywood.** (2.07pm). This short feature was made under the auspices of David Puttnam's Discovery Programme, and concerns the strange tale of Myron, upon whom lies a cruel trick. Starring Kirkwood Smith and directed by Jonathan Rapp
- 10.10 Film: The Italian Job** (1969). Part of the Mondo Cinema Series. Italian director Luciano Eulari's satirical satire is partly a homage to Vittorio de Sica's classic *Bicycle Thieves*, but mainly an excuse to play clever visual tricks on the audience. During the showing of a black-and-white drama, the screen is hijacked by a troop of acrobatic clowns who have escaped from television commercials. In Italian with English subtitles
- 11.45 The Oprah Winfrey Show.** *Survivors of the Flood.* Tonight's guests have survived against all odds in the wake of the disaster. Despite parachute failures and unopened canisters, they are alive, well, and in the studio to share their stories (r)
- 12.10am American Football - Red 42** (s)
- 1.10 The Word** (r). Ends at 2.05

## SATellite

- SKY ONE**
- Via the Astra and Marquillo satellites. 6.00am *Danger* 6.30 *Na Na Na* 7.00 *Fun Factory* 11.00 *Transformers* 11.30 *Trak* 12.00 *Cartoon* 12.30 *News* 1.00pm *Cartoon* 2.00 *WWF Superstars of Wrestling* 2.30 *Monkeys* 4.00 *240 Robert* 5.00 *The Torch* 5.30 *Colour in the Green* 6.00 *Robbin of Sherwood* 7.00 *T.J. Hooker* 8.00 *Unleashed* 8.30 *Monkeys* 9.00 *Cops* 9.30 *Cops* 10.00 *Al American Wrestling* 11.00 *The Rockies* 12.00 *The Outliers* 1.00am *Pages from Skyfax*

- SKY NEWS**
- Via the Astra and Marquillo satellites. News on the hour. 5.00am *Sunrise* 5.30 *Newsline* 6.00 *Sunrise* 9.30 *Dayline* 10.30 *Health Check* 11.00 *Dayline* 11.30 *Newsline* Weather 12.00 *There Were the Days* 1.30 *Holiday Destinations*

## As usual, the most scenic route between Alleppey and Quilon is completely under water.

The Arabian sea coastline of Kerala in south India is characterised by fine beaches, cool plantations of shady coconuts, palms, thatched villages, and an altogether more tranquil way of life than you'll find in Bombay, a short flight away.

At Cochin you'll find the celebrated Chinese fishing nets strung out like huge cobwebs, recalling Kerala's ancient links with the Far East. At Alleppey, an hour's drive further south, start the maze of backwater canals - "kayals" - that provide a unique opportunity to explore the quiet beauty of rural Kerala. Take a country boat, or one of the regular ferries (or - more expensively - hire your own craft) and prepare to be enchanted.



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- 5.40 Entertainment Tonight** 6.00 *Bare Essentials* (1990). Comedy about an engaged couple, who are married on a tropical island with two beautiful strangers 6.00 *Moon* 4.15 (1980). Science fiction adventure set on a mining planet. Starring Michael Pare 10.00 *Monkey Shines* (1988). A monkey, trained to perform mental calculations, transforms the life of epileptic child David Beggs 12.00 *Evening News* 1.00 *Two* (1989). A woman goes undercover to research a book on prostitution 1.35am *The Running Man* (1987). An escaped convict is hunted by a futuristic game show 3.45 *Interno* (1987). Supernatural tale starring Leigh McCloskey. Ends at 5.30

- THE MOVIE CHANNEL**
- Via the Astra and Marquillo satellites. 6.15am *Lassie Come Home* (1943, b/w). The faithful collie is sold by his poverty-stricken family 11.15 *Ninja, The Wonder Boy* (1985). Cartoon adventure 10.15 *The Blue Bird* (1940, b/w). Fairytale starring Shirley Temple 12.00 *World Entertainment Roundup* 1.00pm *It's in the Bag* (1970). Comedy as a flea circus promoter searches for a hidden legacy 2.35 *Tetsumaru of the Six Million Dollar Man and the Bionic Woman* (1967). Starring Lindsay Wagner and Lee Majors 4.15 *The Way We Were* (1973). Oscar-winning love story starring Barbra Streisand and Robert Redford 6.15 *Tetsumaru* (1967). A scientist creates a giant ancestor. Starring John Agar 7.50 *Spotlight* 8.15 *Viva Vera* (1989). A father and son swap minds. Starring Judge Reinhold and Fred Savage 10.00 *Harlem Nights* (1989). Gangster comedy set in 1930s New York, starring Eddie Murphy 12.05am *B.L. Stryker - Grand Theft Hotel* (1989). The hotel becomes a casino (Burt Reynolds) stalks a cat burglar 1.50 *The Long Riders* (1980). Violent epic about the notorious outlaws of the American West 3.35 *Bates Motel* (1987). Psychopath Norman Bates becomes the notorious motel to his friend Allen. Ends at 5.05

- THE COMEDY CHANNEL**
- Via the Astra satellite. 4.00pm *The Lucy Hour* 5.00 *The Lucy Hour* 6.00 *Car 54, Where Are You?* 6.30 *The Lucy Hour*

- THE COMEDY CHANNEL**
- Via the Astra satellite. 4.00pm *The Lucy Hour* 5.00 *The Lucy Hour* 6.00 *Car 54, Where Are You?* 6.30 *The Lucy Hour*

- RADIO 1**
- FM Stereo and MW. 4.00pm *Paul McKenna* (FM only until 6.00pm) 7.00 *Bruno and Loe* (FM only) 8.00 *David Lee Travis* 1.00pm *Adam Justice* 2.00 *Paul McKenna* 3.00 *John Peel* 4.00 *John Peel* 5.00 *John Peel* 6.00 *John Peel* 7.00 *John Peel* 8.00 *John Peel* 9.00 *John Peel* 10.00 *John Peel* 11.00 *John Peel* 12.00 *John Peel* 1.00 *John Peel* 2.00 *John Peel* 3.00 *John Peel* 4.00 *John Peel* 5.00 *John Peel* 6.00 *John Peel* 7.00 *John Peel* 8.00 *John Peel* 9.00 *John Peel* 10.00 *John Peel* 11.00 *John Peel* 12.00 *John Peel* 1.00 *John Peel* 2.00 *John Peel* 3.00 *John Peel* 4.00 *John Peel* 5.00 *John Peel* 6.00 *John Peel* 7.00 *John Peel* 8.00 *John Peel* 9.00 *John Peel* 10.00 *John Peel* 11.00 *John Peel* 12.00 *John Peel* 1.00 *John Peel* 2.00 *John Peel* 3.00 *John Peel* 4.00 *John Peel* 5.00 *John Peel* 6.00 *John Peel* 7.00 *John Peel* 8.00 *John Peel* 9.00 *John Peel* 10.00 *John Peel* 11.00 *John Peel* 12.00 *John Peel* 1.00 *John Peel* 2.00 *John Peel* 3.00 *John 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WEEKEND  
MONEY

Inflated hopes

German and British inflation rates may not, as widely hoped, cross over soon. British inflation fell from 4.1 per cent to 3.7 per cent in October, which the Chancellor hailed as good news. But economists had been expecting a figure of around 3.5 per cent and went home disappointed. British inflation is likely to climb in November and December because of price increases and because last year's mortgage cuts fall out of the calculations. German inflation stands at 3.5 per cent. Page 23



Pauline Neath, and her husband, David, cannot make any financial decisions until the European court decides if Mr Neath should have got the same pension treatment as a woman when he was made redundant last year. Page 26

No guarantees

Three out of four home-buyers have low cost endowments to cover their mortgage. But there is no guarantee that the policy will repay the loan. Page 25

Card come-on

Competitions with cars as prizes and discounts on eating out are some of the incentives offered by credit card issuers this Christmas to get you to spend more. Page 29

Labour pain

A Labour general election victory could end the investment trust boom but Peps are abolished and tax rates increased. Page 27

Letters

Page 30



Charges on a Lanes and Yorks ten-year friendly society policy were so high that nothing was invested in the policy for the first two years and the society said it did not need to send out statements during this time.

Spell broken

The magic spell weaved by Michael Eisner on Walt Disney profits was broken yesterday by the first fall since he took over as chairman in 1984. Page 22

Relegation

A survey of banks has ranked Narwest behind Afghan National Credit and Finance and well behind Abbey National, Northern Bank and the Yorkshire. Page 23

Bid rules

European stock exchange chiefs are tiring of waiting for Brussels and have decided to go it alone on rules for takeover bids. Page 23



Sparks flying

National Power and PowerGen have forced up electricity prices to suppliers by 37 per cent according to a team of independent energy consultants. Page 23

Exploring

British-Borneo Petroleum Syndicate entered 1991 as an oil minnow. It looks certain to end the year as an ambitious company of substance. Page 24

Parking not fine

BAA has admitted that the car parking at Heathrow is not working and has changed the arrangements. Page 22

DysPEPSia



The Inland Revenue is clamping down on people who have taken out more than one personal equity plan. Those caught could have their plans cancelled. They will also have to pay tax on any capital gains. The Revenue says most cases are innocent infringements, because people are confused by constantly changing PEP rules. Page 29

WEEK ENDING  
Matthew Bond

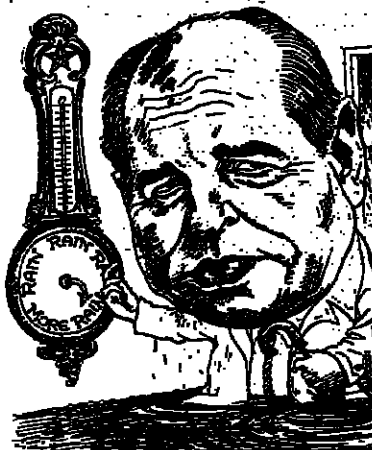
Fazed by  
a haze  
of gold

Just about anyone who has survived the last few years in Britain must empathize with Grigori Yavlinsky, the economic adviser dispatched by President Gorbachev to measure the precise size of the Soviet Union's gold reserves or, put another way, asked to count the rainy-day money.

In recession-hit Britain, counting the rainy-day money has become a national pastime, despite the frustration that no matter how many times the exercise is carried out, the answer is always the same — not nearly as much as you thought there was. The high interest rates that for more than two years made every day a rainy day may have produced an inflation rate of 3.7 per cent, but they have also left all too many households with distinctly soggy balance sheets.

Economically, at least, the Soviet Union is one of the few places in the world where it has been raining for even longer than it has in Britain, so it should have been clear from the beginning that no matter how long Mr Yavlinsky spent in his counting house counting out the money, he could have only the answer to President Gorbachev's question: "Not nearly as much, Mikhail, as you thought there was."

The Soviet president, however, was not alone in being underwhelmed by Mr Yavlinsky's answer, the full implications



of which began to emerge this week as the Kremlin prepared to share out what was left of its unexpectedly meagre gold reserves among the republics, along with a far from meagre trillion roubles of national debt.

The question is, has the missing gold simply been spent on such Soviet staples as tea and American grain over the years, or has it mysteriously been diverted elsewhere? Could it, for example, have gone the same way as the Soviet Union's platinum reserves, which, it emerged this week, have been moved to Switzerland for safekeeping?

News of Moscow's missing millions has coincided with a revival of stories that the financial firepower of the late Robert Maxwell owed much to the munificence of the former Soviet communist establishment. So far, the Foreign Office is only looking into relatively modest sums owed by a Soviet state publisher to Pergamon Press, the state publishing company which, until its sale to Elsevier this year, was at the heart of Mr Maxwell's privately-owned empire.

The most plausible explanation is, however, that just as Hammersmith and Fulham council managed to lose hundreds of millions of pounds by casting off its municipal mantle to become a writer of interest-rate swaps for the international money markets, so the Soviet mortgage indemnity policies in Britain, where it doubtless believed its money would be as safe as houses.

After all, if an experienced player like Royal Insurance can clock up losses of £400 million on such policies, a novice team of former communists could be quite capable of wiping out the Soviet central reserves. Indeed, given the precedents of Hammersmith and Fulham, Allied-Lyons and the Bank of Commerce International, it should come as no surprise when three 24-year-old trainee foreign exchange dealers are eventually held entirely responsible for the total collapse of the Soviet economy.

The ultimate  
company man

The chairman of Coopers Deloitte shows no signs of mellowing with age, as Carol Leonard discovers

In the accountancy world, where such adjectives as relative, Coopers & Lybrand, Deloitte, the biggest such firm in Britain and the third largest in the world, with the income of £3.5 billion, is seen as young, thriving and venturesome.

Brandon Gough, its chairman for the past eight years and still only 54, personifies that image. He is tall, fit, with a friendly, blue Irish eyes, a ruddy complexion and an English nose. He can be aggressive, has been known to demoralise colleagues with a single withering remark, speaks in note form to speed up conversations, and is exceptionally bright — when he sat his accountancy exams, he won six national awards from seven papers.

Gough is known in the profession for being outspoken. Some rivals envy Coopers Deloitte and wish they had Gough as their senior partner. Others think he talks too much. Accountancy journalists know that he is always good for a quotable quote.

"Perhaps some would admire me for being prepared to say my piece, others would say I'm rather too opinionated, a bit too assertive. I have always been prepared to talk fairly openly," he says. "Particularly if you're talking to the professional press, you've got to get beyond the platitudes because, bloody hell, it's wasting the time of the journalist to put up a front."

That statement tells you a lot about what Gough has become. Or what he and many others, think he has become. He was not always like that. As an 18-year-old, doing national service he failed to get a commission in the army. At the time it was more of a disappointment, it was a shock. Even now he describes it as a "slap in the face" and explains it away by saying that, at that stage in his life, he was not sufficiently assertive. "I was clearly judged by the army not to have any leadership potential."

Despite his claim not to talk in platitudes, if you sit him down on his own it is difficult to get him to do anything but, well, high impossible. If you steer the conversation away from business, "He is someone who can stand up in front of 700 partners and be uplifting," says Peter Allen, the firm's deputy chairman and a colleague of Gough's for seven years. "But in front of one, two or three people he is not so good. In a one-to-one situation the barriers go up. He cannot open up."

If you ask Allen why this man, who appears supremely confident, who sounds so relaxed — even if he does fidget constantly — and who so easily sings both his own and the firm's praises,

should find it so difficult to let the world see him as he really is, he will explain that it is because, deep down, he is insecure. "Like most people he is driven by insecurity. He is very sensitive and very wary about being hurt."

Gough would not disagree. He says he is seen as a fairly dominant person in the firm, that he has become more assertive, that he can be boisterous but that he is less tolerant and more short tempered than he was. When I point out that most people mellow as they mature, and that he seems to be doing the reverse, he pulls back the barriers momentarily. Stammering as he does so, he says: "It's probably a reflection... you know... a degree of insecurity. It's a very arrogant person who sits in my chair and thinks they've got the answer to everything and everything is going swimmingly." Yet, in another breath, that is precisely how Gough comes across.

He again contradicts himself if you ask him about his social life.

*'At the back of my mind — and people would fall about hearing this — I do have a sense of the rich man and the eye of the needle'*

He will tell you he likes to think he is seen, within the firm, as gregarious, "one of the boys, one of the last people to leave the bar at night." If you then ask him if he makes friends easily, he replies: "No, I make acquaintances. Like most people, I'm a bit shy. Concerned about being rebuffed, going into new relationships. If there's one characteristic I see in myself that other people probably don't, I'm always very anxious not to impose on people. I would be mortified if I thought I was building up a friendship and they did not appreciate it. I have a great concern about wasting people's time. In a business like this, with a lot of people around, you have to create a working persona which cuts through that. Perhaps it's a bit of the Celt in my personality."

That Celtic blood comes from his Irish mother, Mammie, now 87. His father, a regional representative of the Bank of England, based in Liverpool and then Birmingham, died when Gough was 19. But because of his

father's job, money was not short and although his older brother went to a local grammar school, Gough was sent to Douai College, a Catholic boarding school in Reading. He was, he says, a compliant child, able to "coast" at school and still come near the top of his class. Douai was followed by Jesus College, Cambridge, to read natural sciences and law. But the death of his father, from a rare blood complaint, clearly had a more profound effect than Gough cares to admit. Colleagues believe that it is perhaps the source of his insecurities. "It was an event that signalled that you can't take life for granted," Gough says.

True to his upbringing, he has remained a devout Catholic. He goes to mass every Sunday. "I say my prayers every night, sometimes in bed, sometimes kneeling beside the bed." His beliefs, his sense of right and wrong, influence the way he behaves. "At the back of my mind — and people in the firm would fall about hearing me say this — I do have a sense of the rich man and the eye of the needle. Not so much in a monetary sense, but in the sense that the position and authority I have within the firm should have a positive rather than negative influence. That I should not become excessively proud or arrogant just because I have the good fortune to be a leader." If you took him at face value, for thinking that he was proud and arrogant.

Perhaps because his abilities have never been fully tested, tested to the point of failure, Gough always assumes that he will succeed. His credulity is extraordinary.

He talks about the rivalry between Coopers Deloitte and the other leading accounting firms with schoolboy delight, as if it were all a game. The merger, 18 months ago, between Coopers & Lybrand (where Gough was senior partner) and Deloitte Haskins & Sells, made them overnight the biggest firm in the UK. "We are playing for real money," he says, unable to stifle a laugh. "I get a thrill out of talking about it. I think competitive success is very important. It's a great motivator."

That competition means margins have been squeezed, particularly in auditing. "It was never a licence to print money but it was a licence to a very comfortable living," he says. Coopers Deloitte's rivals, in the belief that the merger might have averted its eyes from the ball, have been assiduously courting its clients. "It's been a very sweaty 18 months," admits Gough.

As he talks you cannot help but notice his office. His desk is all



Private lives: Brandon Gough and his wife Sarah seldom entertain at their country house, the first home of Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicholson where the garden is open to the public

but clear and the entire room, save for a discreet photograph of his three children, is devoid of personal mementoes. The one person he says he could not survive without is Sarah, his wife, but there is no photograph of her. He does not like to mix his business and private lives. "I keep the two worlds pretty much separate," he says.

Despite his popular image, that desire for personal privacy is driven by an awkwardness in social settings. Home is a 14th century, eight-bedroomed house, the first home of Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicholson, and the garden, consequently, is open to the public, but he and his wife seldom entertain there. "I have a shell," Gough explains. "There is a persona that is the job rather than the person. Within the shell I have become more withdrawn, more private."

He is aware of a change. "I've become more conscious of it in the last couple of years." His wife tells him "my head is rather larger than it used to be." If that is the case then the business persona must be in the danger of enveloping the whole. "It's funny," says Gough, "but it's almost as if the individual personality and the firm's personality have become intermingled."

Early bath for Brondby bank bid

By GEORGE SIVELL

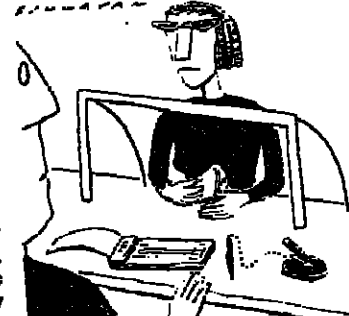
JUST imagine the pallid faces in the supervisory department of the Bank of England if Millwall, Tottenham Hotspur or Edinburgh Hibernian slipped in a bid for a quoted British bank. Who for a quoted British bank. Who can even forget the fuss created when relative giants such as Hanson and the Saatchi brothers, talked of stakes in the Midland.

But on the Continent, where pleasure and business seem to mix better and sports clubs are more attracted to development, such things are possible — almost. The financial community in Copenhagen has been treated to the sight of Brondby turning its back on a crushing exit from the

earlier rounds of the lucrative European Cup and attempting to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat with a bid to take over a small but well run local bank.

Brondby, which last year reached the semi-final of the UEFA Cup, already has 21.5 per cent of Interbank of 1985 A/S and would like to buy the rest. It is the ambition of Per Bjerregaard, Brondby's chairman, to make the club a leading force in Europe by building a diversified business whose profits will finance the team's development.

With the defeat by Dynamo Kiev still ringing in their ears, the Brondby directors announced a steep two for one call on shareholders to pay for the rest of the



bank. But the Brondby shares, recently returned from suspension, fell from Kr283 (£25) to Kr230 over the week and on Thursday the football club had "postponed indefinitely" its cash

call. The issue would have raised the club's capital from Kr24 million to Kr72 million. Mr Bjerregaard said he expected a 1991 pre-tax profit equivalent to 30 per cent of capital and reserves of Kr58.6 million. The club said it postponed the issue because its shares are trading at an unrealistically low price, given its earnings and capital base. Back in Britain, Tottenham, rescued by Alan Sugar and Terry Venables at 75p a share, was floated at 100p, while shares in Millwall stand at just 2.25p against their 20p offer price, and Hibernian were relegated... to the matched bargain system of trading.

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## TEMPUS

## ACT deals well within its means

ACT Group, the software group, has satisfied two ambitions in one go. It has bought another company, yet retained a handsome cash pile. The latest acquisition is that of Kindie Group, Dublin, for an initial £28.7 million, with the possible additional payment later of £5.5 million.

In May this year, ACT bought Quotient, a supplier of software to the financial sector, in a cash and shares deal valued at £27.4 million. The Kindie deal squares the circle by taking ACT firmly into the wholesale and retail banking world, thus complementing its own services to the financial world, and far beyond.

Kindie is being bought at about ten times earnings, and the initial £28.7 million cost will be funded by the issue of 22.6 million new ACT shares, of which 18.3 million will go to the vendors. A further 4.3 million shares will be issued for cash. ACT's equity base will rise 17.4 per cent.

Some of ACT's existing

cash pile will be used, but from the £26.9 million at March 31, a respectable £17.1 million will still be left, equivalent to 13p of its 137p share price. Kindie has a progressive profits record and its own cash, though £2.8 million of that will disappear when the vendors collect a special dividend out of the company's kitty.

ACT yesterday turned out pre-tax profits of £7.65 million (including a £1.04 million exceptional profit) for the six months ended September, compared with £5.36 million previously, and raised the interim dividend from 1.25p to 1.5p a share. Interest income on the cash pile in the first half was £1.3 million. Year-end profits could reach £17.5 million (£12.7 million), and £25 million the following year.

At 137p, ACT shares sell at 12.2 times earnings, and 9.7 times likely 1993 earnings. Backed by operations that should generate more cash fast, the shares look undervalued.

## British-Borneo

BRITISH-BORNEO Petroleum Syndicate entered 1991 as a minnow of the oil and gas sector. It looks certain to end the year as an ambitious company of substance.

A Tempus selection for 1991, the company attracted because of its unusual mix of oil and gas properties and a portfolio of BP and Shell shares that guaranteed investment income and supported the payment of a dividend, rare in the sector.

An intention to expand exploration and production activities was clearly signalled and in March the company bid successfully for more assets in the Gulf of Mexico. But the proposed £37.6 million acquisition of Norsk Hydro's North Sea assets, announced this week, clearly thrusts British-Borneo into a higher league.

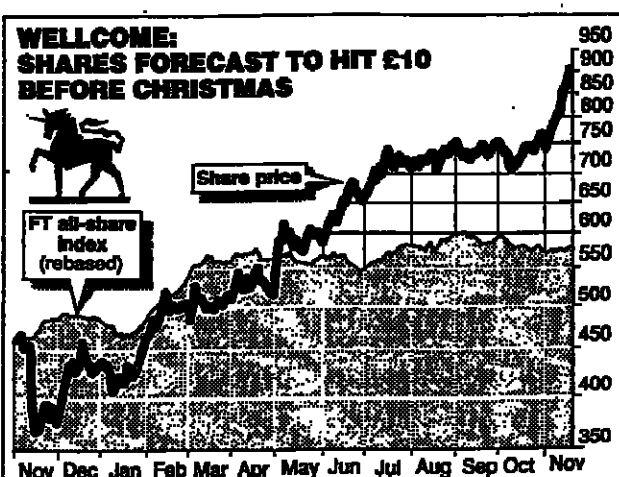
The deal increases proven and probable reserves by

24.8 million barrels of oil equivalent. It creates a balanced portfolio of British and American assets and provides a sizeable tax shelter for British-Borneo's growing exploration and development commitments. The company is paying a full price but quality assets do not come cheap. Cazenove, the company's broker, has agreed to place conditionally almost 27 million shares in a market awash with paper from smaller oil companies. This says much for the reputation of Alan Gaynor, British-Borneo's chief executive.

There is an open offer of three new shares for every two held at 20p, against a pre-announcement price of 22p and yesterday's 21p. A final dividend of 4.43p a share has been forecast. Shareholders should subscribe in full.

## STOCK MARKET

## Investors scramble for shares in Wellcome



inflation figures, showing the share dipping below 400p for the first time in almost four years. The FT-SE 100 index ended the first week of the account 15.0 down on the day at 2,546.6 with only 423.8

million shares traded. Government securities reflected the pound's nervousness, closing with falls ranging up to 4 1/2 at the longer end.

Guinness lost a rise to close unchanged at 525p. Kleinwort Benson, the broker, is taking up 7p at 610p, and Grand Metropolitan, 2p cheaper at 861p.

There was little relief for Tipbook, the container and trailer rental group that was subjected to a bear raid this week. The price spent another

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## WALL STREET

## Dow drops 11 points

New York — Blue chips suffered moderate losses in morning trading. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 11.51 to 3,052. Bonds also fell. Don Hays, director of investment strategy at Wheat First Securities, expects economic data to emerge late this

month and early in December showing that consumer spending is starting to rise again.

□ Tokyo — Shares extended their recent losses to close easier. The Nikkei index was down 77.36 points, or 0.32 per cent, to 24,099.18.

(Reuters)

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## WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16 1991

Edited by Lindsay Cook

## Deeper in the share-owning mire

## COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK  
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

Wider and deeper share ownership has long been espoused by this government as it has proceeded to privatise the utilities. No one says much about longer share ownership and this year's Christmas giveaway, complete with share ramping facility, does not look any different.

The timetable is virtually the same as for electricity, water and gas, but it is difficult to make the initial discount large enough to encourage people to buy shares when they are already quoted. So a novel scheme to bolster the shares long enough for BT applicants to sell their shares cheaply and still make a profit has been devised.

No one can accuse the government of covert activity, so there will not be the embarrassment of a minister having to stand trial for manipulating share prices. In fact the details have been shouted long and loud in the last week for registration for the £5 billion plus BT sale.

Unlike other shares and

equity-linked products there will be no danger of the prices falling in the immediate aftermath for the shares, says the government. This is a unique variation on the wealth warning that all other launches have to carry.

The government is going to sell more shares than it needs to and will then buy back £400 million worth should the price slip as the shares take their profits. Of course, even the government coffers are not deep enough to buy back enough shares in the event of a stock market collapse.

Most privatisation share buyers, however, are old hands. They saw the effect the crash had on BP shares and know to wait until the last minute to put in their applications, thus minimising the time their money might be at risk in the markets.

Institutional investors will get the chance to buy the extra

shares, not the public, so some things do not change.

Those applying for up to 1,000 shares will get a discount on the retail price, to be announced next Thursday. The government has recognised that the majority of the millions who are already registered want a re-run of earlier privatisations with a guaranteed profit. They do not want to learn about the mechanisms of markets, to sit it out through downturns. "How much will we get if we apply for the whole family?" they ask.

They are still waiting to find

out which of the share shops will offer the cheapest dealing rates. That, too, will be announced once it is too late to change the share shop nomination. However, they can all still use their vouchers with the cheapest, whichever they chose on the form.

## Times change

The mortgage market has changed beyond recognition since the Law Commission started looking at ways legis-

lation can be improved to protect homebuyers back in the mid-Eighties.

So desperate are mortgage lenders now to kick-start the housing market that they are not being tardy in bringing rates down. On the contrary, they are mostly anticipating every half per cent cut in base rates and even changing their rules to allow cheaper payments in the hope that confidence in owning property can be restored.

Lenders are only too aware that they need to look after existing borrowers as well as new ones if they are to prevent them remortgaging elsewhere. They also know how much cheaper it is to keep those existing customers happy than to attract new ones.

The Law Commission proposes that interest rates might be changed by the court if a lender has been unreasonable in varying

rates. Those borrowers stranded with mortgage lenders who have withdrawn from the market and are no longer marketing loans may welcome the move. They need not cheer too heartily, though. They need only to look at how few people have had their credit agreements reduced by the courts under the Consumer Credit Act.

The Commission also wants to ensure that mortgage documents are more easily understood by ordinary homebuyers and to speed up the sale of properties that have been repossessed. It suggests that borrowers should only be charged interest for a maximum of 12 weeks after a property has been repossessed.

The lenders only wish they knew a way of selling more quickly and still complying with their statutory duty to get the best price possible. Auctions and discounted mortgage rates have been tried. It is now up to the Commission to come up with a new way to sell empty, second-hand properties in poor repair.

Insurance policies linked to home buying may have had their day

## Will your endowment pay off the mortgage?

By SARA MCCONNELL

THREE out of four homebuyers this year have opted for an endowment mortgage according to the Council of Mortgage Lenders. Many of them will have surrendered other policies taken out to buy previous properties.

While the debate as to the merits of endowment policies to pay off home loans preoccupies many in the insurance and broking industries, it does not seem to have reached the customers yet.

The arguments for endowments — a tax-free lump sum, no need to start again with every move and the long-term advantage of investing in equities — still hold good. Endowments also have the advantage that they are cheaper than repayment mortgages if rates average below 11.5 per cent to 12 per cent over the life of the policy. But they are being challenged by the lower commission and tax advantages of personal equity plans, the historically high interest rates and the bad reputation earned for endowments by the high proportion surrendered in the early years, often on the guidance of insurance salesmen. On top of this, the dismal performance of insurance company investments since the 1987 crash is likely to hit bonuses on with-profits policies.

Endowments are promoted by insurance companies and lenders as a safe way of paying off a mortgage but what they rarely make clear is that there is no cast iron guarantee that the policy will pay off the mortgage debt at the end of 25 years. Policyholders may have to pay a higher premium or extend the term of the mortgage in order to pay off the debt. If the insurers' investments perform badly, the returns and bonuses which form part of the policy will be cut and there could be a shortfall when it comes to paying back the mortgage debt.

Research by the Consumers' Association in May showed that 37 out of 38 lenders offered CA researchers low cost endowment mortgages where a repayment mortgage would have been equally suitable. Of these, seven lenders also said the low cost endowment guaranteed to pay back the full cost of the

mortgage. The CA said: "We think the seven lenders who said full repayment was guaranteed gave the wrong advice; a low cost endowment mortgage doesn't guarantee to repay all your mortgage."

"Although in the past they have achieved adequate returns, our research should have been advised that there was some risk involved."

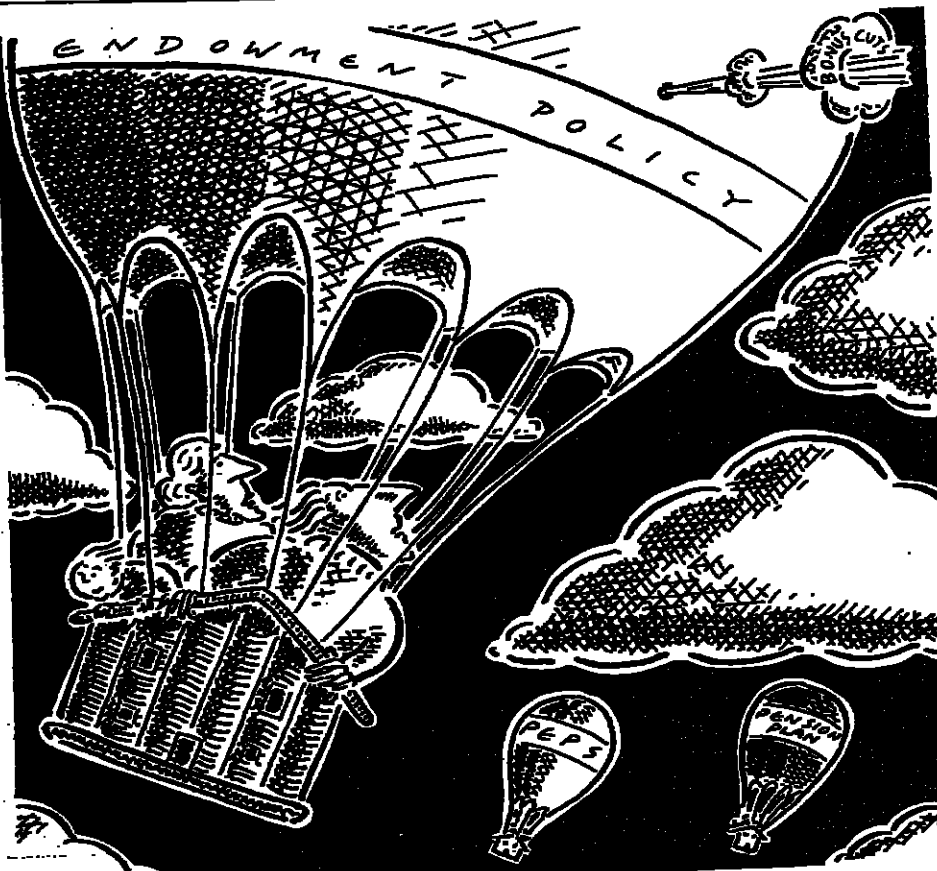
The report concluded: "It's hard to escape the conclusion that some lenders are influenced by the commission they receive."

Traditional with-profits endowments are the safest option on the grounds that they accrue bonuses every year which cannot be taken away. Part of this bonus is earned on the guaranteed payment, or sum assured, and part is paid on bonuses already accrued. In theory, those who take out a 25-year with-profits endowment and hold it until it matures should have earned enough annual bonuses to repay the capital on the loan and have some left over as a tax-free lump sum.

The policy also earns a terminal bonus, which in some cases is almost half the maturity value. If the equity market is doing badly the year the policy matures, this bonus can also be cut. Unit-linked endowments do not accrue bonuses and the payout depends on the value of the underlying investments when it is cashed in. The new hybrid unit-linked with-profits policies earn both annual and terminal bonuses but premiums are invested in units and some policies have no guarantees.

Insurance companies have been hard hit by last year's slump in the stock market, poor returns on property investments and lower returns on safer investments. This year's season of bonus declarations will start next month with most companies under pressure to cut annual bonuses. Sun Alliance set the pattern last year with cuts in bonuses on all endowment policies.

John Hylands, assistant general manager at Standard Life, said: "It is very likely that there will be cuts this year. We set reversionary bonuses looking to the future and we don't want to guar-



antee more than we can give. The expectation is that investment performance won't be that great over the next five years."

Endowments for house purchase are almost always low-cost endowments. These can be either with-profits, unit-linked or with-profits or unit-linked. The level of premium on a with-profits policy is set assuming that 80 per cent of the annual bonuses paid on the policy will go towards paying off the loan. Premiums on unit-linked policies and unit-linked with-profits policies are set assuming a return or bonus of between 8 per cent and 8.5 per cent a year. Most policies are reviewed regularly

**'There is no cast iron guarantee that the policy will pay off the debt after 25 years'**

to check that the policy is performing up to scratch.

Low-cost endowments came into their own in 1983. The combination of tax relief at source on mortgage interest and tax relief on life insurance policy contributions made them look competitive beside repayment mortgages. The cost of an endowment was halved because lenders were prepared to accept that a proportion of annual bonuses on with-profits policies would be included in the payout.

Before low-cost policies were launched, the only policy accepted by lenders was a full endowment, where the level of the sum assured was the same as the mortgage, with no

bonuses included in the calculation. Now the guaranteed payment is lower and the gap bridged by bonuses, which fluctuate.

Legal & General said the cost of a full endowment for a man aged 30 next birthday with a £50,000 mortgage would be £191.50 a month over 25 years. By contrast the low cost endowment would be £63 a month.

But life offices are feeling the strain of having to keep reversionary bonuses high. Maurice Paterson, deputy managing director at Scottish Amicable, said: "There was pressure on offices to have a higher reversionary bonus rate because any office reducing bonuses had a higher premium rate."

Life offices have to keep enough reserves to cover bonuses already promised. Several offices, including Standard Life, Scottish Amicable and Friends Provident have begun to reduce costs already by introducing unit-linked with-profits policies as standard. These will pay bonuses only on the premiums paid in, rather than on the whole of the sum assured.

Mr Hylands said: "Unit-linked with-profits policies are less capital intensive and the build up of guarantees is less in the early years. The policyholder shouldn't really notice any difference."

Standard Life's Homeplan offers no guarantee that the investment will grow although it has set an annual bonus of 8.5 per cent on the premiums paid in. This can be cut. Other unit-linked contracts, like Friends Provident's, guarantee at the moment that the fund will grow by 3 per cent a year throughout the term of the policy.

year would get back only £202 of the £743.76 he had paid in. After five years, he would get £3,156 out of £3,718.80.

Maurice Paterson, deputy managing director at Scottish Amicable, said: "The philosophy is that life funds are for people who stay the course. Endowments are a long-term investment and the implication is that those who surrender early should be mildly punished for breaking the contract."

Friends Provident came under pressure to improve its surrender values this year and changed its bonus structure to include an element of final bonus after five years. After five years, the same male aged 30 next birthday paying £50 a month into a 25-year policy would get back £2,914 of the £3,000 he had paid in. Previously he would have got back just £2,637. After 20 years, the payout would be £43,298 instead of £27,534.

## £25,000 for the colonel who refused to cash in

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

WHEN Colonel Jeremy Alford was buying his first home in Fleet, Hampshire, in December 1971, he was strapped for cash and became one of

Legal & General's first endowment mortgage customers, because the payments were less than other schemes. The low cost endowment did not require full cover for the loan: it assumed the annual bonuses would help pay the debt.

"It was a very new thing. If I had taken out a straight insurance policy to cover the full cost of the debt it would have cost me a lot more than I could afford. I was an impecunious lad at the time," he said. He sold the house for £10,300 six years later and moved back into army property but did not consider cashing in the endowment policy. Four years ago he was again short of money for a deposit for his current home, in Andover, he nearly surrendered the policy

but was advised not to. "Never cash in a policy. Make it paid-up if you have to but never cash it in early."

Now the Colonel's policy is about to become one of the company's first endowment mortgages to mature. Over 20 years he has paid in £5,200 and next month he will receive almost £25,000. Had he

bailed out early the value would have been much lower as more than half the maturity value is the terminal bonus. Although the mortgage that the policy was taken out to support was paid off long ago, Mr Alford was required to show Legal & General that the original building society had no further interest in the property. Finding the Ramsbury Building Society proved difficult. It had long ago been swallowed up by the West of England Building Society and that in turn is now part of the Portman Building Society. A letter kept from 1977 saved the day: it was from the Ramsbury stating the mortgage had been paid off.

The Colonel now has a 15-year endowment mortgage of £20,000 arranged by Abbey National with Friends Provident. This will mature when he is 63 and he will not be tempted to cash it in early.

Alford: no surrender

Alford: no surrender

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## When surrender is the costly option

By SARA MCCONNELL

THOSE who surrender an endowment policy after only a few years of its term are certain to lose money. Even sure-are near the end of the term of the policy could cut the payout by up to half. Yet life offices and lenders admit that there has been an increase in the "churning" of endowment policies. Salesmen keen to earn commission for selling a new policy persuade homeowners to take out a new policy rather than topping up an existing one to the value of the new mortgage if this is higher. Borrowers are then likely to get back less than they paid in, particularly if they surrender in the early years. Churning is not allowed under the Financial Services Act but insurers blame it on a stagnant housing market, which has meant a thin time for endow-

ment salesmen. They say it is almost impossible to catch the one-off house purchase churn; it is easier to spot a pattern, when a salesman has moved to a new company, for example.

Life offices say surrender values are low because they have to pay the set-up costs of the policy, including an up-front commission to the lender or broker who sells it. But low surrender values are also seen as a "mild punishment" for those who do not stay the course.

Surrender values in the early years are very low even for reputable life offices. A Standard Life invests only £30.96 of a £61.98 premium paid into a Homeplan policy in the first and second years. To policy in the first and second years would get back £2,914 of the £3,000 he had paid in. Previously he would have got back just £2,637. After 20 years, the payout would be £43,298 instead of £27,534.

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SAVE & PROSPER

# Double blow in pensions equality rule

By SARA MCCONNELL

FAMILIES face being doubly hit by pensions changes being brought in following the Barber judgment in the European Court to equalise pension ages. This week David Neath formally lodged a submission to the European Court for equal treatment.

When he was made redundant in June 1990, he was offered a transfer value of £10,815 less than he would have had if he was a woman. But as employers react to the threat of equalisation by increasing women's retirement ages, his 58-year-old wife cannot be certain that she will be able to retire in two years time or have to wait until she is 65 before she gets her pension.

Employers who have already offered their retired male and female employees unequal pensions will have to make back payments if employees alleging sex discrimination in pension provision succeed in their claims.

Companies are being forced to equalise pension ages because the Barber judgment ruled that pensions were part of pay and that there should be no discrimination between men and women on pension provision.

The ruling did not make it clear whether the judgment should be retrospective. Some companies have equalised pension ages but differ on how much of an employee's service should be counted towards retirement at the new pension age. As a result, employees in some companies are likely to

be harder hit than those in others.

Since the judgment, a steady stream of cases of alleged discrimination are being lodged in the European court. Mr Neath, a 55-year-old technician with Hugh Steeper, a Leeds firm, is being supported by his union, the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union and the Equal Opportunities Commission.

The EOC supported Douglas Barber in his original fight with the Guardian Royal Exchange over discrimination in pensions provision. Mr Neath was not allowed an early retirement pension but was offered a deferred pension from the age of 65. If he had been a woman this would have been 60. As an alternative, he was offered a pension transfer value of £30,670 but a woman in the same position would have been offered £41,485.

Mr Neath said: "It is not so much anxiety as not knowing where you are that is difficult. And if you're married like I am, usually you share the pensions benefits so this affects double the number of people you might think."

Mr Neath's wife Pauline is a part-time nursery nurse with the Leeds Education Authority who will reach pensionable age in two years time, at 60. At the moment she can choose whether to retire at 60 or go on until 65. "It would be a personal decision but we just don't know what our financial position will be until this is sorted out."

A majority of female



Personal decision: David and Pauline Neath

employees will, however, have to work for an extra five years before getting their pension and many will find their pension transfer values have been cut by up to 30 per cent because of this.

Most companies which have made a move have chosen the cheaper option of increasing the length of women's working lives rather than reducing them for both men and women. There is usually nothing to stop them changing the terms of the pension arrangements as long as this is not specifically forbidden in an employee's contract.

A recent survey by the Confederation of British Industry, sponsored by Mercer Fraser, the actuaries, showed that out of 300 companies replying to a questionnaire, 91 per cent would bring women's pension ages into line with men's at 65. Only 11 per cent would bring men into line with women and have a single retiring age at 60, while the rest would retire all their employees at the age of 62 or 63 or have not yet come to a decision.

Colin Evans, managing

# Revenue relents on tax anomaly

THE Inland Revenue is to end a tax anomaly that has forced employee shareholders to pay tax unfairly for the past three years (Liz Dolan writes).

Starting next year, people who own shares that have been acquired because of their position as employees or directors may no longer have to pay tax on certain shareholder benefits, as they have been doing under the 1988 Finance Act.

The benefits include the discount on shares acquired in a rights issue or advantages gained from a preferential allocation to shareholders as part of a public offer. The government has now decided that it was not right to tax employees and directors for benefits available to other shareholders outside the company on the same terms.

At the moment, employee shareholders pay tax at their normal marginal rate on "special benefits" arising from any preferential issue not available to all shareholders.

The problem here is that if, for instance, a rights issue is not available to shareholders living overseas, the employees who take up their rights are immediately penalised by the Revenue for receiving a "special benefit", whereas other shareholders are not.

The government has therefore decided to change the ruling to "not available to substantially all shareholders". The original legislation was intended to catch people who picked up extra benefits by issuing shares for themselves and a select few employees. It was aimed mainly at directors of private companies.

The proposed changes will contain conditions that will continue to exclude this type of tax avoidance. The changes take effect immediately.

# Scheme aims to make child benefit grow

THE recent increases in child benefit have left many parents unsure how much they are receiving, according to a survey conducted by Abbey Life. More than 80 per cent of people eligible to claim the tax-free allowance do not know that £9.25 a week is paid for first children and £7.50 for other children.

Four out of five parents spend most of the allowance, with almost half adding it to general housekeeping and about a third specifically spending it on their children. Around 40 per cent said they could afford to save it for the future benefit of their children and would be willing to do so.

The life company is giving them a chance to do so with the launch of Early Advantage, a savings plan. The parents arrange to have their benefit paid into a bank or building society account, and then to have a certain portion transferred to the savings plan each month to build up for the future. The benefit is used to buy units in one of Abbey Life's funds. The plan can be held in trust for the child concerned and it is up to the parents to decide when it is paid.

Abbey Life estimates that with an inflation rate of 5 per cent it will cost £7,648 to get married in the year 2000. In 1975 the wedding would have cost £1,620.

## LIMITED ISSUE

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£10,000+	10.48	11.00	7.86	8.15
£5,000+	9.80	10.25	7.35	7.60

Notes: c.a.r. stands for cash at risk. There will be periods when your rate may be reduced to 0% or 1% or 2% or 3% or 4% or 5% or 6% or 7% or 8% or 9% or 10% or 11% or 12% or 13% or 14% or 15% or 16% or 17% or 18% or 19% or 20% or 21% or 22% or 23% or 24% or 25% or 26% or 27% or 28% or 29% or 30% or 31% or 32% or 33% or 34% or 35% or 36% or 37% or 38% or 39% or 40% or 41% or 42% or 43% or 44% or 45% or 46% or 47% or 48% or 49% or 50% or 51% or 52% or 53% or 54% or 55% or 56% or 57% or 58% or 59% or 60% or 61% or 62% or 63% or 64% or 65% or 66% or 67% or 68% or 69% or 70% or 71% or 72% or 73% or 74% or 75% or 76% or 77% or 78% or 79% or 80% or 81% or 82% or 83% or 84% or 85% or 86% or 87% or 88% or 89% or 90% or 91% or 92% or 93% or 94% or 95% or 96% or 97% or 98% or 99% or 100% or 101% or 102% or 103% or 104% or 105% or 106% or 107% or 108% or 109% or 110% or 111% or 112% or 113% or 114% or 115% or 116% or 117% or 118% or 119% or 120% or 121% or 122% or 123% or 124% or 125% or 126% or 127% or 128% or 129% or 130% or 131% or 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Labour win could trigger customer exodus

## Poll jitters for investment trusts

INVESTMENT trusts have experienced a remarkable renaissance over the past five years, but that could be short-lived if the Labour Party wins next year's general election.

Labour is committed to reviewing, and possibly abolishing, the tax-efficient personal equity plan and increasing the top rate of income tax. This could make investment trusts much less attractive to the public.

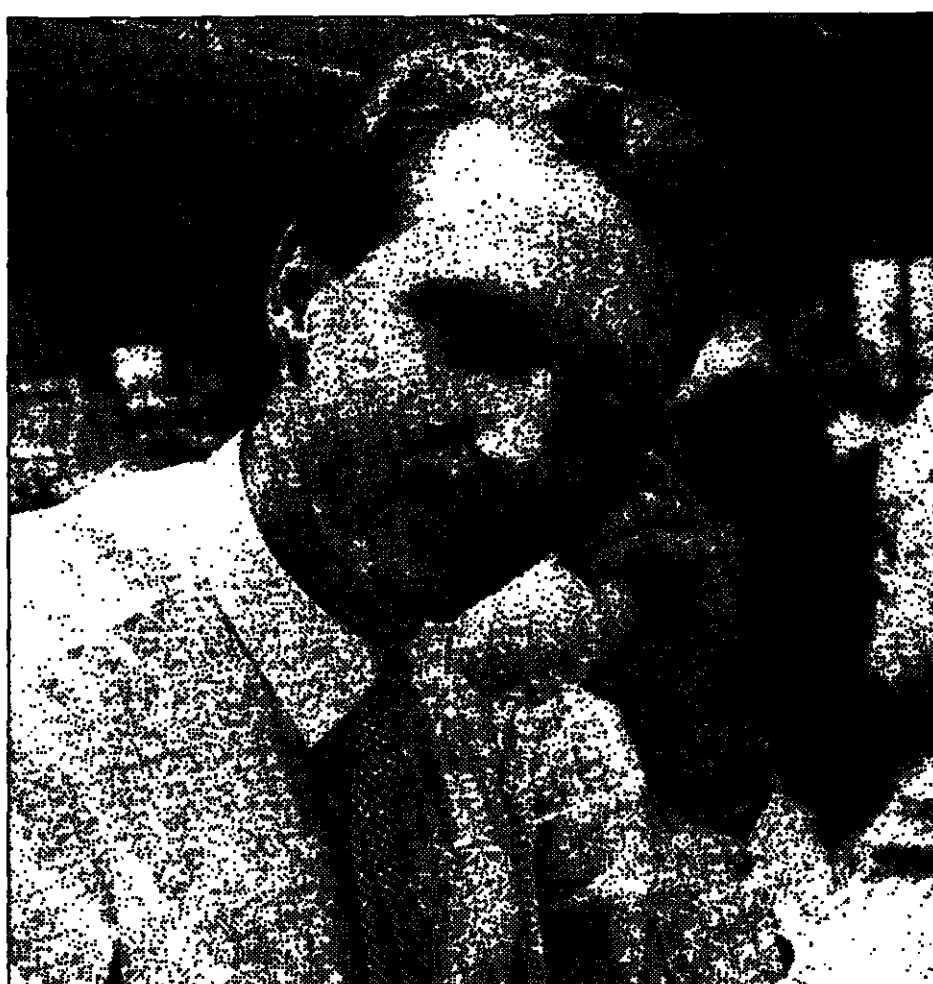
Robbie Robertson, an investment trust analyst at County NatWest, the stockbroker, said: "To the extent that the revival has been based on PEP loopholes and high yield vehicles, I think that a Labour government might knock that on the head."

Investment trusts have prospered over the past five years since Nigel Lawson as Chancellor reduced income tax and introduced Peps. About 100 trusts have been launched since 1986, raising more than £2.5 billion.

Many of the trusts marketed to the public have been high-income funds shielded from tax by a PEP. Regular savings schemes have also been introduced.

Recently investment trusts received the greatest accolade of all when two giants of the rival unit trust industry launched investment trusts. M&G launched its M&G Income Investment Trust and Fidelity the Fidelity European Values Trust.

The success of the investment trust sector in the stock market is symbolised by the narrowing of the difference between the net value of assets under management and the share price. Known as the "discount" this was as high as 25 per cent in the mid-1980s, but it is about 13 per cent now. Increasing demand for investment trusts from the public is one of the main reasons the discount has narrowed. When it was as high as



Ingenuity test for managers: Robbie Robertson, investment trust analyst

25 per cent trusts were very vulnerable to takeover bids. If Labour wins the election, many analysts believe Peps will be abolished, making new issues difficult. Labour has said it is considering this but it has also stated that it will let existing Peps be.

A new issue like the M&G Income Investment Trust, which raised £246 million would not be possible if Peps were withdrawn; £122 million went into the M&G PEP. In

the case of M&G, investors who used the PEP should get an income yield of up to 6.55 per cent tax-free if forecasts are met. Up to £6,000 of shares from a newly issued investment trust can be put into a PEP.

Labour's pledges for income and capital gains tax will also make investment trusts - and shares as a whole - less attractive. The party plans to increase the top rate of income tax on both earned and un-

earned income to an effective 59 per cent. Capital gains tax will be raised to 30 per cent and may be indexed to inflation. The top rate of income tax would actually be 50 per cent but National Insurance, at today's rate of 9 per cent, would make up the rest in the case of earned income. An equivalent surcharge would be added to tax on unearned income.

These tax changes would make precisely those people

who buy investment trusts and other shares worse off in County NatWest's view. They could also encourage people to invest only in tax-free investments like first homes and pensions, and lead to a "general exodus" from investment trusts.

Analysts think that some of the general investment trusts with a relatively high income and some capital growth would see their discounts widen once more. They might become a stock market backwater. There would still be a place for trusts offering a very high income or those with a prospect of high capital returns but little or no income. The former would appeal to people who needed an income and the latter to those in the top tax bracket who just wanted capital returns.

Split-capital trusts do just that. They were originally designed under a Labour government in the 1960s for tax reasons. John Szynmanowski, head of investment trust research at Warburg Securities, said: "For split-capital trusts a Labour government is actually good news."

At one end of the spectrum they offer zero dividend preference shares which might accumulate at a rate of some-where over 10 per cent for a set number of years, finally to pay out a lump sum. And at the other end is the stock market equivalent of an annuity which pays out a very large income each year, but expires worthless.

Election of a Labour government will test the ingenuity of investment trust managers, Mr Robertson said. "The trust sector has produced a diversity of products and has been innovative in a way that one had not seen ten years ago. Who is to say the investment trust sector will not adapt to these changes?"

RUPERT BRUCE

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## Lessons in looking after cash

AN education package was launched this week to teach 14 and 15-year-olds about budgeting, banking, savings and credit. Sponsored by National Westminster Bank, "Your Money Matters" is intended to become part of the curriculum for all secondary schools (Lindsay Cook writes).

Produced by Credit Action, the teaching package and video should provide the subject for three lessons at the time when youngsters are first exposed to handling money.

Most 16-year-olds have at least one bank account and some are earning upwards of £85 a month, says Credit Action. Some also manage to get credit or store cards or to log up an overdraft, even though financial institutions do not knowingly lend to those under 18 without a guarantee of payment because they cannot pursue minors for debt. This can lead to substantial debts by the age of 18.

Credit Action wants to make sure that pupils know how to work out the cost of credit and to understand how easy it is to get into financial trouble by becoming over-committed.

## Society merger pre-dated bonus

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

A CHANGE in the way interest was paid to Mornington Building Society investors before its merger with the Britannia Building Society has reduced the value of the merger bonus paid to most savers.

Towards the end of last year, Mornington savers were told in an undated letter that the society was this year moving from paying interest twice yearly on most accounts to one annual payment. This meant that instead of having interest credited on February 15 and August 15 there would be one payment on March 1.

The society planned to make the changeover for most investors unless they specifically wrote requesting that their interest stay twice yearly.

In April, the Britannia announced that it was to merge with the one-branch London-based society. The date the two boards had agreed to the deal was April 9 but when the terms of the 0.6 per cent bonus were revealed to savers the following month, the qualifying date was February 28 - the day before interest was credited to the majority of the savers' accounts. Because of

this, the interest for the previous six months and 13 days does not qualify for the bonus. The bonus was paid on the account balances on February 28 or September 30, whichever was the lower.

Investors feel cheated because the bonus would have taken account of the six months' interest had the change not been made. They also question the arbitrary choice of February 28 for the bonus payments when interest was due to be paid the following day.

The Britannia said the dates were chosen so that the merger timetable worked smoothly. In many other mergers the qualifying date has been when the boards of the two societies agreed terms. In this case that was April 9. The Britannia says that interest rates were raised to take account of the change to annual interest rather than twice a year.

Bonuses are usually paid to the investors and borrowers of a society when it merges. They are designed to share out the difference in reserves between the smaller society and the one taking it over.



## PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT?

Before you can retire there are so many factors that you need to take into account, things that may currently be giving you a false

picture about life after 65.

At the moment you may get some of your motoring paid for, perhaps even a company car. Perhaps your company gives you private health care. Or helps with your expenses, even something small like contributing to your phone bill. What happens when it all goes?

Perhaps you don't want to wait until you're 65. In which case, can you afford to retire?

For instance, does your mortgage go on to retirement age, could you pay it off earlier?

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Later on, you will automatically be sent a prospectus and a special application form. And registering by Monday November 18th also means that you are eligible to qualify for incentives. These will either be bonus shares or money off later instalments.

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## Hiding the front-end charges

From Mr Peter Robinson  
Sir, Four years ago I took out one of the ten-year friendly society policies with Lancs & Yorks Assurance Society. I have since topped up the original £100 a year with a further £100 a year policy as permitted in recent Budget legislation.

This week I received - after five annual payments - my very first statement of units allocated. But there was no statement covering the top-up policy commenced two years ago. When I rang to query this, I was not prepared for the disarming candour of the reply. I would not be receiving a statement relating to the top-up policy for another year or two "because our charges are front-end loaded".

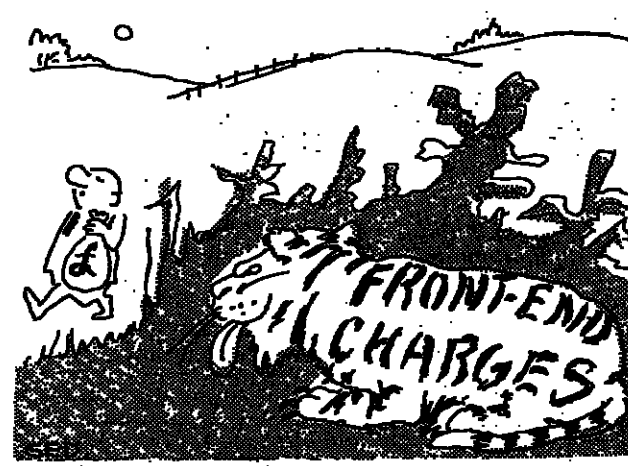
The member of Lancs &

Yorks staff agreed readily with my assertion that if the society did not resort to this cynical approach of only sending out statements after four years, investors would be surrendering their policies in droves.

As it is, the £500 invested to date on my initial policy is still worth only £493 at the statement date. Imagine what it would have looked like after two or three years!

The sooner we can get away from the evasive expression of charges purely as a "reduction in yield" and come up with a formula that shows investors just how much their plan is reduced by heavy charges in the first year or two the better!

Yours faithfully,  
PETER ROBINSON,  
42 Hanover Steps,  
St Georges Fields, W2.



## Pension abuse

From the Chairman of the National Association of Pension Funds

Sir, The Comment piece (Weekend Money, November 9) is quite rightly critical of the abuses which have occurred in a small minority of the 750,000 occupational pension schemes that are stated to be operating. It is recognised, not least by the Superannuation Funds Office of the Inland Revenue, that small, self-administered schemes require the strictest surveillance to ensure that the tax relief available is not misused.

My concern in writing is to point out that the vast majority of pension schemes of all kinds do adhere to the rules.

In seeking to highlight the abuses of the small minority who see pension schemes as a means of tax avoidance, there is a danger that the true reason for pension funds, the secure provision of income in retirement, may be overlooked.

Some £18 billion of taxable pensions will be paid to former employees and their dependents by occupational pension schemes in the current year. My association is as concerned as you are that this provision is not threatened by the selfish acts of a few.

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN MACMAHON,  
Chairman,  
The National Association of Pension Funds Limited,  
12-18 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1.

## Credit where due

From Mrs Dawn George

Sir, I was interested to read of your correspondent's experience with the NatWest bank - that cash paid in in Workingham would take three days to be credited to his son's account with the same bank in Portsmouth.

I have this problem with Barclays. Cash deposited in Newark takes three days to be credited to an account with Barclays in another area.

In June, I wrote to the chairman of Barclays asking for an explanation. For this delay, I received a completely unsatisfactory reply consisting mainly of a description of the bank's clearing system. I should like to know why banks can apparently debit an account instantly but not credit it.

As a matter of interest, apart from building societies, the TSB can effect same-day cash transfers between accounts within the TSB. Yours faithfully,  
DAWN GEORGE,  
Beech House,  
Norwell Road,  
Causton, Notts.

## Friendlier savings

From M. H. Burr

Sir, Wishing to give my many grandchildren, nephews and nieces a lump-sum tax-free start in adult life, I contacted several friendly societies.

To a man they wanted - from £200 per over ten years - 60 to 65 per cent of the first year's payment for setting up charges, commissions etc, and doubtless in some cases costs to provide the "free gift" bribes to do business with them.

To this initial avariciousness there are then added annual management charges and monthly administration charges so that it is surprising that any beneficiary ultimately gets any gain at all.

So much for the "friendly" aspect - a misnomer if ever there was one. It seems in the cold light of day that National Savings Bonds for children - also tax free but with no charges at all - must be a better investment for my hard-earned, and already taxed once, cash.

Or am I wrong?

Yours faithfully,  
M. H. BURR,  
Church House,  
Althouse Lane,  
Newmillerdam,  
Wakefield,  
West Yorkshire.

## Number crunch

From B.R. & S.L. Davis

Sir, I feel readers should perhaps be warned by our recent experiences. Having deposited a substantial amount of money through the clearing system to our account with the Abbey National, we were shocked when one of our cheques was returned on the grounds of insufficient funds together with charges of £15.

After several telephone calls, it was discovered that our deposit had been wrongly credited to someone else's account. We were told the original credit would have to be sighted before amendments could be made.

After continuous prompting our problems were resolved. However, our concern lies in the apparent case which account numbers can be misread, seemingly with no adequate system of cross-checking. In this case the final 0 had been missed by the operator and the computer, requiring an eight-figure number, automatically inserted a 0 at the beginning.

There is an account in the same branch with an eight-figure number so close to our own. This is worrying. Yours faithfully,  
B.R. & S.L. DAVIS,  
353 Nore Road,  
Portsmouth, Bristol.

● Letters are welcomed, but The Times regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

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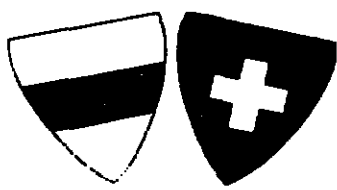
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Please send me information on B.I.A.

To: David Burren, Marketing Director, International Investment Consultants Ltd.,  
30 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1SB.

Telephone: 071-638 2540 or 071-588 1932. Fax: 071-628 2472.

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Not good enough, not young enough... Procter absorbs the painful cricket lessons learnt in defeat

# South Africa face a long road back

From ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
IN DELHI

SOUTH Africa will return home today to a country in shock. Even Thursday's valiant victory will not alter that. The players may be chastened by the manner of defeat in India this week, but that will be nothing to the reaction of the public, most of whom evidently believed that business would resume much as before.

It could not happen that way, as even the most naive of their players is now aware. They have been away too long. Deceived by the intensity of their domestic game, they have been oblivious to the regression in standards, an inevitable legacy of two decades without authentic international competition.

In 1970, when the curtain came down on the first act of the South African cricket story, West Indies, India and Pakistan, had they been able or willing to meet the Springboks, would have been ill-equipped to beat them. Probably, each would have been dealt with as summarily as were Australia, who lost so famously in South Africa's final series, 4-0. The South African side of Richards, Procter and Pollock might easily have dominated the Seventies, the new South Africans now know how remote they are from dominating the Nineties.

This, however, has still been a rewarding tour for them. Not the least of its benefits, indeed, has been the lesson of defeat, both on the players and the smugly expectant supporters at home. Better by far to learn here, while there is still time to regroup, than in the unforgiving maelstrom of the World Cup. To have been pitched directly into that, only to flop before the entire cricket world, would have incalculably retarded their redevelopment.

There has been mitigation for the losses this week, none more admissible than the nature of the tour. A fortnight ago today, such a venture was still a pipedream. It was



Peace-offering: Rice, left, Cook and Donald before the start of South Africa's final one-day international against India in Delhi on Thursday

agreed, organised and expedited in four days. While it may have helped the South Africans to have no time to fret, it was a debilitating drawback to come unprepared.

The culture shock of Calcutta was combined with the natural emotion of the return. The lack of time for practice was compounded by the Indian tendency to kill with kindness. The matches were watched by a total of 200,000 people, apparently intent on deafening each other with a relentless fireworks display. Then came the "misunderstanding" over the "doctored" ball. It was an intoxicating cocktail, and long before it was over some of the touring team

were wide-eyed with astonishment and legless with exhaustion.

That said, it must still be faced that South Africa's cricket, at least until Thursday's run chase, surprised no one more than themselves in its mediocrity. India were better, much better, in every department of the first two one-day internationals, and as they may be only the fourth or fifth best limited-overs team in the world, the task confronting South Africa to achieve even respectability in the World Cup, is daunting.

Wessels, with the bat, and Donald, with the ball, are alone in going home with reputations enhanced. Rice

performed ably for a 42-year-old, Kirsten came good at the death, and Kuiper proved himself a formidable hitter. Some of the others, on this limited evidence, would not be assured of a place in a decent county side.

Squad selection, essentially hurried, was unbalanced. There were four opening batsmen and no regular No. 4. The omission of Pienaar and Cullinan was a surprise to many and may be rectified for the World Cup, but Steven Jack, next to Donald the fastest bowler in the country, is not thought ideal for limited-overs cricket.

Nothing disappointed the coach, Mike Procter, more

than the woeful fielding. "It was poor," he said. "There was no urgency. Yet we came here thinking it would be one of our strengths." The truth, as Procter acknowledges, is that the fielding is suffering because the players are, candidly, too old.

Seven of the 11 who played in Calcutta are 32 or over. The next generation is needed, and fast. Look out for Jonty Rhodes, rated by Ali Bacher as "far better than Colin Blythe - the fastest man I have ever seen over 20 yards".

Inexperience at the highest level is the South African's principal obstacle. Even Procter himself had never been on a tour. "It is all a learning

process for us," he said. "But I never went along with those at home who said this was too quick for us, and I still don't. I can see no negatives. I am disappointed with much of our cricket but we know where we stand now."

South Africa return to a domestic season which will be punctuated by training camps for the World Cup squad, which Procter will coach. Pakistan are not now expected to visit them in January, largely to avoid upsetting India, whose extraordinary new links will continue with their first Test tour of South Africa, beginning next October.

## HOCKEY

# Cup gives cutting edge to meeting between old rivals

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

NOT long ago, Southgate, Spencer, Brooklands and Bowdon were eager participants in an annual weekend tournament when the atmosphere was relaxed. Now it is stern and earnest, with clubs facing a double bill of Pizza Express National League matches today and third-round fixtures in the Hockey Association Cup tomorrow.

So, when Southgate play host to Brooklands in the cup, they will renew an old acquaintance. Brooklands, strong Premier League, are persevering with a young side which includes two useful forwards, Skates and Maguire. Southgate, who also visit Trojans for a first-division match today, are armed to the teeth, although Welch, the scorer of seven goals so far, has been having hamstring trouble.

The result of the 32 cup matches tomorrow will be in most cases predictable. The stronger clubs, Hounslow, the first-division champions, Southgate, winners on six occasions,

East Grinstead, Stourport, St Albans and Slough - should all qualify for the fourth round.

Slough are looking forward to renewing rivalries with Guildford. In the 1978 final, Guildford beat them 2-1, but two seasons later Slough reversed the result. Slough are now concentrating on the cup, which they have won on four occasions.

For both league and cup games, Hounslow should not feel the absence of the injured Andrew Thompson. Havant, still without David Roberts for both games, will miss Garcia for the cup game against Cambridge City tomorrow. After being temporarily suspended for dissent last week, he has to be stood down for one match under club rules.

Of the other northern challengers in the cup, Welton and Sheffield are expected to go through, although Welton are hoping that Steve Most, a key defender, will be fit for the league visit to St Albans today, and the trip to Bournville tomorrow.

## BASKETBALL

# Cadle's joy doused

KEVIN Cadle's debut as England coach appeared destined to end in glorious success in Moscow on Wednesday. Russell Kempton writes. England led the Soviet Union 72-48 with two minutes on the clock; the mighty Soviets, 14 times European champions, were there to be humbled.

It was not to be. Cadle's troops capitulated and the opening match in their European championship semi-final round programme, despite 17 points from Steve Bucknall and 14 from Alton Byrd, ended in a 77-74 defeat.

"It was disappointing to get beaten," Cadle, the coach of Kingston, the Carlsberg League champions, said. "I couldn't have asked for much more from

my players, but I am still confident we can win our next two matches."

England's group C campaign continues against Denmark at the Sheffield Arena tonight. Having beaten the Danes in eight of their nine meetings - 95-77 in the most recent match-up, in April - Cadle should not have to wait too long to favour his first international victory.

Mike Obasogie, of Thames Valley Tigers, who scored six game due to a family illness. But he may be available for the Wednesday test on Wednesday over Bulgaria. In midweek, over to Leicester. England have yet to beat the Bulgarians in three outings.

## FIXTURES FOR THE 1992 CRICKET SEASON

# Durham's season begins at the Parks

By MARCUS WILLIAMS

THE year 1992, already significant in European Community terms, will be notable too in the more parochial world of county cricket, for it marks the entry of the first new first-class side - Durham - since Glamorgan, in 1921. Durham will make their debut at the Parks on April 14, followed by four successive home games. Durham's presence, as the eighteenth first-class county, inevitably means more

fixtures, but the season is shorter - by a few days - than 1990. The starting date, April 13, is as early as in 1991, though the champions, Essex, now meet England A rather than MCC; but the last round of Britannic Assurance championship matches starts five days earlier. It remains to be seen whether Britannic will continue with the end-of-season challenge matches between the county champions and the Sheffield Shield winners from Australia, which this year cost the company around £100,000. An

invitation to South Africa's Currie Cup winners has not been ruled out. The Texaco Trophy one-day series, between England and Pakistan, continues five matches for the first time, two in May and three in August. Sunday play has been retained for all but the third Test, which clashes with the Wimbledon tennis men's singles final.

County ground-hoppers will have the chance to add several venues to their collection. Pending the establishment of

permanent headquarters, Durham will be using Durham University, Gateshead Fell, Stockton, Darlington, Hartlepool and Chester-le-Street, as well as Jomond in Northumberland, where they will play a Benson and Hedges Cup match as a move to help to promote the game more widely in the North-East.

Some old names also return to the list. Yorkshire are back at Bradford for the first time since 1985, and Glamorgan at Colwyn Bay and Llanelli after a two-year absence.

## April

13-FIRST-CLASS MATCH (four days)  
Lancashire v Essex  
14-FIRST-CLASS MATCHES (three days)  
Essex v Lancashire  
Lancashire v Essex  
15-SUNDAY LEAGUE  
Durham v Essex  
Durham v Lancashire  
Durham v Yorkshire  
Durham v Warwickshire  
Durham v Gloucestershire  
Durham v Kent  
Durham v Somerset  
Durham v Devon  
Durham v Cornwall  
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Durham v Devon  
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Durham v Wiltshire  
Durham v Dorset

16-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
Durham v Essex  
Durham v Lancashire  
Durham v Yorkshire  
Durham v Warwickshire  
Durham v Gloucestershire  
Durham v Kent  
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Durham v Wiltshire  
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17-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
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18-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
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19-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
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20-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
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21-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
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22-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
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23-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
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24-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
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25-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
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26-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
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Durham v Herefordshire  
Durham v Wiltshire  
Durham v Dorset

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Durham v Wiltshire  
Durham v Dorset

28-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
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Durham v Yorkshire  
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Durham v Herefordshire  
Durham v Wiltshire  
Durham v Dorset

30-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
Durham v Essex  
Durham v Lancashire  
Durham v Yorkshire  
Durham v Warwickshire  
Durham v Gloucestershire  
Durham v Kent  
Durham v Somerset  
Durham v Devon  
Durham v Cornwall  
Durham v Oxfordshire  
Durham v Herefordshire  
Durham v Wiltshire  
Durham v Dorset

31-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
Durham v Essex  
Durham v Lancashire  
Durham v Yorkshire  
Durham v Warwickshire  
Durham v Gloucestershire  
Durham v Kent  
Durham v Somerset  
Durham v Devon  
Durham v Cornwall  
Durham v Oxfordshire  
Durham v Herefordshire  
Durham v Wiltshire  
Durham v Dorset

32-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
Durham v Essex  
Durham v Lancashire  
Durham v Yorkshire  
Durham v Warwickshire  
Durham v Gloucestershire  
Durham v Kent  
Durham v Somerset  
Durham v Devon  
Durham v Cornwall  
Durham v Oxfordshire  
Durham v Herefordshire  
Durham v Wiltshire  
Durham v Dorset

33-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
Durham v Essex  
Durham v Lancashire  
Durham v Yorkshire  
Durham v Warwickshire  
Durham v Gloucestershire  
Durham v Kent  
Durham v Somerset  
Durham v Devon  
Durham v Cornwall  
Durham v Oxfordshire  
Durham v Herefordshire  
Durham v Wiltshire  
Durham v Dorset

34-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
Durham v Essex  
Durham v Lancashire  
Durham v Yorkshire  
Durham v Warwickshire  
Durham v Gloucestershire  
Durham v Kent  
Durham v Somerset  
Durham v Devon  
Durham v Cornwall  
Durham v Oxfordshire  
Durham v Herefordshire  
Durham v Wiltshire  
Durham v Dorset

35-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
Durham v Essex  
Durham v Lancashire  
Durham v Yorkshire  
Durham v Warwickshire  
Durham v Gloucestershire  
Durham v Kent  
Durham v Somerset  
Durham v Devon  
Durham v Cornwall  
Durham v Oxfordshire  
Durham v Herefordshire  
Durham v Wiltshire  
Durham v Dorset

36-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
Durham v Essex  
Durham v Lancashire  
Durham v Yorkshire  
Durham v Warwickshire  
Durham v Gloucestershire  
Durham v Kent  
Durham v Somerset  
Durham v Devon  
Durham v Cornwall  
Durham v Oxfordshire  
Durham v Herefordshire  
Durham v Wiltshire  
Durham v Dorset

37-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
Durham v Essex  
Durham v Lancashire  
Durham v Yorkshire  
Durham v Warwickshire  
Durham v Gloucestershire  
Durham v Kent  
Durham v Somerset  
Durham v Devon  
Durham v Cornwall  
Durham v Oxfordshire  
Durham v Herefordshire  
Durham v Wiltshire  
Durham v Dorset

38-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
Durham v Essex  
Durham v Lancashire  
Durham v Yorkshire  
Durham v Warwickshire  
Durham v Gloucestershire  
Durham v Kent  
Durham v Somerset  
Durham v Devon  
Durham v Cornwall  
Durham v Oxfordshire  
Durham v Herefordshire  
Durham v Wiltshire  
Durham v Dorset

39-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
Durham v Essex  
Durham v Lancashire  
Durham v Yorkshire  
Durham v Warwickshire  
Durham v Gloucestershire  
Durham v Kent  
Durham v Somerset  
Durham v Devon  
Durham v Cornwall  
Durham v Oxfordshire  
Durham v Herefordshire  
Durham v Wiltshire  
Durham v Dorset

40-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
Durham v Essex  
Durham v Lancashire  
Durham v Yorkshire  
Durham v Warwickshire  
Durham v Gloucestershire  
Durham v Kent  
Durham v Somerset  
Durham v Devon  
Durham v Cornwall  
Durham v Oxfordshire  
Durham v Herefordshire  
Durham v Wiltshire  
Durham v Dorset

41-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
Durham v Essex  
Durham v Lancashire  
Durham v Yorkshire  
Durham v Warwickshire  
Durham v Gloucestershire  
Durham v Kent  
Durham v Somerset  
Durham v Devon  
Durham v Cornwall  
Durham v Oxfordshire  
Durham v Herefordshire  
Durham v Wiltshire  
Durham v Dorset

42-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
Durham v Essex  
Durham v Lancashire  
Durham v Yorkshire  
Durham v Warwickshire  
Durham v Gloucestershire  
Durham v Kent  
Durham v Somerset  
Durham v Devon  
Durham v Cornwall  
Durham v Oxfordshire  
Durham v Herefordshire  
Durham v Wiltshire  
Durham v Dorset

43-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
Durham v Essex  
Durham v Lancashire  
Durham v Yorkshire  
Durham v Warwickshire  
Durham v Gloucestershire  
Durham v Kent  
Durham v Somerset  
Durham v Devon  
Durham v Cornwall  
Durham v Oxfordshire  
Durham v Herefordshire  
Durham v Wiltshire  
Durham v Dorset

44-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
Durham v Essex  
Durham v Lancashire  
Durham v Yorkshire  
Durham v Warwickshire  
Durham v Gloucestershire  
Durham v Kent  
Durham v Somerset  
Durham v Devon  
Durham v Cornwall  
Durham v Oxfordshire  
Durham v Herefordshire  
Durham v Wiltshire  
Durham v Dorset

45-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
Durham v Essex  
Durham v Lancashire  
Durham v Yorkshire  
Durham v Warwickshire  
Durham v Gloucestershire  
Durham v Kent  
Durham v Somerset  
Durham v Devon  
Durham v Cornwall  
Durham v Oxfordshire  
Durham v Herefordshire  
Durham v Wiltshire  
Durham v Dorset

46-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
Durham v Essex  
Durham v Lancashire  
Durham v Yorkshire  
Durham v Warwickshire  
Durham v Gloucestershire  
Durham v Kent  
Durham v Somerset  
Durham v Devon  
Durham v Cornwall  
Durham v Oxfordshire  
Durham v Herefordshire  
Durham v Wiltshire  
Durham v Dorset

47-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
Durham v Essex  
Durham v Lancashire  
Durham v Yorkshire  
Durham v Warwickshire  
Durham v Gloucestershire  
Durham v Kent  
Durham v Somerset  
Durham v Devon  
Durham v Cornwall  
Durham v Oxfordshire  
Durham v Herefordshire  
Durham v Wiltshire  
Durham v Dorset

48-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
Durham v Essex  
Durham v Lancashire  
Durham v Yorkshire  
Durham v Warwickshire  
Durham v Gloucestershire  
Durham v Kent  
Durham v Somerset  
Durham v Devon  
Durham v Cornwall  
Durham v Oxfordshire  
Durham v Herefordshire  
Durham v Wiltshire  
Durham v Dorset

49-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
Durham v Essex  
Durham v Lancashire  
Durham v Yorkshire  
Durham v Warwickshire  
Durham v Gloucestershire  
Durham v Kent  
Durham v Somerset  
Durham v Devon  
Durham v Cornwall  
Durham v Oxfordshire  
Durham v Herefordshire  
Durham v Wiltshire  
Durham v Dorset

50-SECOND-CLASS MATCH (three days)  
Durham v Essex  
Durham v Lancashire  
Durham v Yorkshire  
Durham v Warwickshire  
Durham v Gloucestershire  
Durham v Kent  
Durham v Somerset  
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Durham v Cornwall  
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Durham v Wiltshire  
Durham v Dorset







# Bradbury Star looks the solution

HAVING won the H & T Walker Gold Cup three years ago with Saffron Lord, Josh Gifford knows precisely what type of horse is needed to win the feature race at Ascot today.

Unfortunately, he has decided to complicate life for punters by saddling both Bradbury Star and Buck Willow.

In going for Bradbury Star, I am siding with one who was not far behind the best over hurdles but who has already made a faultless transition to steeplechasing.

Last autumn, he won valuable hurdle races at Cheltenham and Cheltenham. He later also finished sixth in the Champion Hurdle.

This season, Bradbury Star has impressed when winning his two races over fences, at Kempton Park and Warwick.

At Kempton, where the fences take some jumping, he easily accounted for Deadly Charm, who has won twice since, while at Warwick he trounced Kentish Piper, who

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

has also won in the meantime. While Buck Willow was not as good as his stable companion over hurdles, he too has made a smooth switch to chasing.

He finished second twice last season prior to beating Captain Dibble at Sandown a fortnight ago. With Captain Dibble winning both before and since, his form looks solid too.

Kim Bailey, who sent M'O'Gie out to win the corresponding race two years ago, is another trainer who will be doubly represented.

This prize has always been the target for Kings Fountain, who won over the same course and distance in the spring, but it has featured only lately on Far Senior's agenda, even though he must carry 10lb more than his allotted weight.

Of the two, I much prefer Kings Fountain, who will be

the better for his first run of the season at Wetherby. Tipping Tim is another who will be racing with an incorrect weight, even though he has been penalised for winning over three miles at Cheltenham last Friday.

On his previous visit to Ascot he jumped so badly to his left at the penultimate fence that he ended up running out on to the hurdles track. That was one of the few things that have gone wrong for his trainer Nigel Twiston-Davies this season.

Too weight will be shouldered by the Irish challenger Fionn Law, whose task has surely been made harder by the penalty that he incurred when winning at Punchestown last Sunday, while Arcturion hardly ran well enough in the Mackeson Gold Cup at Cheltenham the day before to encourage belief that he can win now with 18lb more to carry.

Third in Line, who benefited from Tipping Tim's debacle last time, is taken to win



Richard's winning chance for Last 'O' The Bunch the Rip Handicap Chase, while the Forte Hurdle can go to the recent Newbury winner Peace King.

On the Flat, Song Of Sixpence would have been set to give at least a stone to Kaber. In the circumstances, I can picture him winning the Kenel Gate Novices' Hurdle now that he gets 4lb from Kaber.

A victory for Last 'O' The Bunch in the Manicou Handicap Chase can breach the dam and cause a flood of winners for his trainer Gordon Richards, who also has a fine chance of landing a treble at Ayer with Randolph Place (1.50), Pat's Jester (2.20) and Abbot Of Furness (3.20).

At Catterick, Blackburg (2.15), who was successful twice over today's course and distance when he was hurdling last season, now looks poised to begin what should be a promising steeplechasing career.

Finally, Latent Talent (1.25) and Prime Display (1.55) look likely winners for their jockey Jamie Osborne at Warwick, where Knight's Spur appeals as a sporting nap to win the University of Warwick Turf Club Handicap Hurdle for novices.

He still appears to feature on a handy map following that promising first run of the season at Stratford, where he was runner-up to Newlands General.

## Granville Again to collect

From OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT IN DUBLIN

PETER Scudamore is hoping to be fit in time to partner Granville Again, one of three British challengers in a five-hour field for the Irish 5,000 Sport Of Kings Hurdle at Leopardstown tomorrow.

If this race was run right-handed, I would be optimistic that 'Minorettes' G-1 could profit from a previous run to top season when narrowly beaten by Nancy Myles in a match at Punchestown last Sunday. Her record suggests though that she is less effective on a

left-handed circuit and she raced wide all the way when runner-up to Crystal Spirit in the Sun Alliance Hurdle at Cheltenham.

Granville Again was also runner-up in his Cheltenham event, to the gamble-of-the-week Desirero in the Trafalgar House Supreme Novices' Hurdle. He later went on to win the Seagram 100 Pipers Top Novice Hurdle at Liverpool.

Fighting Words and Boarding School complete the British challenge, but neither should beat Granville Again.

Tomorrow is the final day of the Irish Flat season and both Geoffrey Wraggs (Trojan Crown) and Reg Hollinshead (The Auction Biddy) challenge in the Irish 5,000 Monarch Properties Knockare Stakes.

The conditions would favour Trojan Crown at her best, but she was a disappointment at Newmarket last time out and I prefer Michael Kinane's mount Pre-eminent.

### WARWICK

MANDARIN  
12.25 Wonder Man. 1.25 Latent Talent. 1.55 Prime Display. 2.25 SPUR (nap). 2.55 Pick Roundstone. 3.25 High Padre.

THUNDERER  
12.25 Wonder Man. 1.25 Tribute To Youth. 1.25 Sneakaway. 1.55 Prime Display. 2.25 Knighton Coombe. 2.55 Mossy Fern. 3.25 High Padre.

Richard Evans: 1.55 The Ilywacker.

GOING: GOOD

12.25 ST MARY'S TRIAL HURDLE (5.57.21, 2m 11f, 3 runners)

1. 401. WONDER MAN 228 (D.F.G.S.) Mrs J. Pimen 5-11.8  
2. 124. WESTERN SPECIAL 14 (D.F.G.S.) J. Thomas 4-10-12  
3. 57. MCST INTERESTING 190 (D.F.G.S.) G. Jones 6-10-7

14 Wonder Man, 12-1 Most Interesting, 12-1 Mermaid Special.

12.55 BRANDON HANDICAP CHASE (5.55.21, 2m 11f, 3 runners)

1. 512. TILDEBO 14 (D.F.G.S.) J. Webster 7-11-10  
2. 446. WESTERN DANCY 22 (D.F.G.S.) N. Gassell 5-11-8  
3. 22. VALERIAN 232 (D.F.G.S.) D. Nicholson 7-11-10

12.55 BRANDON HANDICAP CHASE (5.55.21, 2m 11f, 3 runners)

1. 512. TILDEBO 14 (D.F.G.S.) J. Webster 7-11-10  
2. 446. WESTERN DANCY 22 (D.F.G.S.) N. Gassell 5-11-8  
3. 22. VALERIAN 232 (D.F.G.S.) D. Nicholson 7-11-10

1.25 IVOR CHADDOCK NEGOTIATOR HANDICAP CHASE (4.57.00, 3m 11f, 8 runners)

1. 51. TEAM CHALLENGE 14 (D.F.G.S.) J. Pimen 5-11-10  
2. 228. TRAVEL OVER 181 (D.F.G.S.) L. Law 10-11-7  
3. 12. MAYORAN 15 (D.F.G.S.) D. Jones 5-11-8

1.55 BONUSPRINT HANDICAP HURDLE (5.17.21, 2m 11f, 10 runners)

1. 351. LEADING ROAD 194 (F.S.) C. Allen 7-12-0  
2. 410. SHANNON GLEN 7 (F.S.) Mrs J. Pimen 5-11-8  
3. 1.1. PRIME DANCY 147 (F.S.) J. Gifford 5-11-8

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3. 1.1. PRIME DANCY 147 (F.S.) J. Gifford 5-11-8

### 2.25 UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK TURF CLUB NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (1.25.21, 2m 11f, 23 runners)

1. 124. WONDER MAN 228 (D.F.G.S.) Mrs J. Pimen 5-11-8  
2. 124. WESTERN SPECIAL 14 (D.F.G.S.) J. Thomas 4-10-12  
3. 57. MCST INTERESTING 190 (D.F.G.S.) G. Jones 6-10-7

14 Wonder Man, 12-1 Most Interesting, 12-1 Mermaid Special.

12.55 BRANDON HANDICAP CHASE (5.55.21, 2m 11f, 3 runners)

1. 512. TILDEBO 14 (D.F.G.S.) J. Webster 7-11-10  
2. 446. WESTERN DANCY 22 (D.F.G.S.) N. Gassell 5-11-8  
3. 22. VALERIAN 232 (D.F.G.S.) D. Nicholson 7-11-10

12.55 BRANDON HANDICAP CHASE (5.55.21, 2m 11f, 3 runners)

1. 512. TILDEBO 14 (D.F.G.S.) J. Webster 7-11-10  
2. 446. WESTERN DANCY 22 (D.F.G.S.) N. Gassell 5-11-8  
3. 22. VALERIAN 232 (D.F.G.S.) D. Nicholson 7-11-10

1.25 IVOR CHADDOCK NEGOTIATOR HANDICAP CHASE (4.57.00, 3m 11f, 8 runners)

1. 51. TEAM CHALLENGE 14 (D.F.G.S.) J. Pimen 5-11-10  
2. 228. TRAVEL OVER 181 (D.F.G.S.) L. Law 10-11-7  
3. 12. MAYORAN 15 (D.F.G.S.) D. Jones 5-11-8

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2. 410. SHANNON GLEN 7 (F.S.) Mrs J. Pimen 5-11-8  
3. 1.1. PRIME DANCY 147 (F.S.) J. Gifford 5-11-8

1.55 BONUSPRINT HANDICAP HURDLE (5.17.21, 2m 11f, 10 runners)

1. 351. LEADING ROAD 194 (F.S.) C. Allen 7-12-0  
2. 410. SHANNON GLEN 7 (F.S.) Mrs J. Pimen 5-11-8  
3. 1.1. PRIME DANCY 147 (F.S.) J. Gifford 5-11-8

### 2.55 PIZZA HUT NOVICES CHASE (2.55.21, 2m 11f, 15 runners)

1. 124. WONDER MAN 228 (D.F.G.S.) Mrs J. Pimen 5-11-8  
2. 124. WESTERN SPECIAL 14 (D.F.G.S.) J. Thomas 4-10-12  
3. 57. MCST INTERESTING 190 (D.F.G.S.) G. Jones 6-10-7

14 Wonder Man, 12-1 Most Interesting, 12-1 Mermaid Special.

12.55 BRANDON HANDICAP CHASE (5.55.21, 2m 11f, 3 runners)

1. 512. TILDEBO 14 (D.F.G.S.) J. Webster 7-11-10  
2. 446. WESTERN DANCY 22 (D.F.G.S.) N. Gassell 5-11-8  
3. 22. VALERIAN 232 (D.F.G.S.) D. Nicholson 7-11-10

12.55 BRANDON HANDICAP CHASE (5.55.21, 2m 11f, 3 runners)

1. 512. TILDEBO 14 (D.F.G.S.) J. Webster 7-11-10  
2. 446. WESTERN DANCY 22 (D.F.G.S.) N. Gassell 5-11-8  
3. 22. VALERIAN 232 (D.F.G.S.) D. Nicholson 7-11-10

1.25 IVOR CHADDOCK NEGOTIATOR HANDICAP CHASE (4.57.00, 3m 11f, 8 runners)

1. 51. TEAM CHALLENGE 14 (D.F.G.S.) J. Pimen 5-11-10  
2. 228. TRAVEL OVER 181 (D.F.G.S.) L. Law 10-11-7  
3. 12. MAYORAN 15 (D.F.G.S.) D. Jones 5-11-8

1.55 BONUSPRINT HANDICAP HURDLE (5.17.21, 2m 11f, 10 runners)

1. 351. LEADING ROAD 194 (F.S.) C. Allen 7-12-0  
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## Rugby union returns to league normality

## New age brings a mixed bag for Bath and Bristol

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

NOT so many years ago, league rugby struck almost as much terror into the hearts of the game's administrators as did rugby league. Now, a competitive club structure is accepted to the extent that clubs have spent the last two months bemoaning a series of "meaningless" fixtures before getting into the meat of the season — the Courage Clubs Championship.

Delayed by the World Cup, the championship returns today, the first weekend of a competitive stream diluted by only a rest for Christmas and the five international weekends. Its by-products have long been evident too — the need for every club to gear itself for a new age, which has seen some prosper and others found wanting.

The contrasting fortunes of two of the West Country's leading clubs in the West Country are a case in point. Bath and Bristol, little more than a dozen miles apart, survive together in the main division but, whereas Bath take their championship pen-

nant to London Irish today, Bristol contemplate an immediate past wracked by division and an immediate future wracked by financial difficulties.

Bath plan with confidence for the future. Although their development schemes have been held up on two fronts, they anticipate permission to begin building a new sports stand at the sports centre end of the Recreation Ground next year.

They must wait, however, for the next round of the saga involving planning permission for a supermarket on their training ground. It has been refused and has now gone to appeal.

Bristol, in stark contrast, have a playing squad of some potential but an inability to fund the club as they would wish. Last week, they were refused permission for extended use of their new Centenary Stand, which would have generated the money they so badly need.

"We can afford only the most essential expenditure,

sometimes not even that," Alan Ramsey, the Bristol chairman, said. "But Bristol are playing some attractive, adventurous rugby and we badly need people to lend their support."

Such a state creates an extra burden for the players, who will be all too aware that their success may start the ball rolling. They begin at Nottingham with a side missing David Hilton, the prop recovering from chicken pox, but include Andy Blackmore at lock and the promising Craig Barrow at No. 8.

There are no internationals in the Bristol line-up yet Bath can afford to cast off Damian Cronin, the Scottish lock, and still field eight capped players against London Irish. Among them are Jonathan Webb and Richard Hill who, like several other members of the England World Cup squad, have decided that more rest is not required after the efforts expended in reaching the cup final.

Irish are one of the first division newcomers, the others, Rugby, wait until next week before making their bow. From those they left behind in the second division, Wakefield will be acutely aware that the six leading clubs in Yorkshire all dropped out of the Pilkington Cup at the second round stage last weekend, which has the "merit" of leaving them to concentrate on the league and county championship.

One of the six, Morley, were promoted from the third division last season and their first league match at this level is against Moseley, demoted from the first division and another club with distressing financial problems.

The game at The Reddings today may serve as an indicator as to whether a slide has been halted and an ascent levelled out.

## TODAY'S TEAM NEWS

**Rosslyn Park v Orrell**  
Park give league debut to Thompson at stand-off and Fowler at lock. Orrell bring a squad of 18 and will confirm their side when they have seen the pitch, but it will include World Cup squad members Morris and Heslop.

**Saracens v Northampton**  
Saracens field the England Under-21 centre, Ravenscroft, with another Under-21 representative, Dookey, at full back. Bayfield has recovered from damaged shoulder muscles to play lock for Northampton.

**Wasps v Harlequins**  
Rob Andrew unexpectedly plays at stand-off after transferring to Cough and Childs in the centre and Buzza at full back, and Ovi's failure to shake off a cold. Davies and Luszcz are in the centre. Pignatelli at full back and Brown and Kennell on the wing. Harlequins, with seven of their ten England internationals, have Pears at full back

and Bray at stand-off. Shortland partner Edwards in the second row.

**Gloucester v Leicester**  
Gloucester prefer Matthews to Hamlin at stand-off and restore Tim Smith as full back. Marmont reverting to the wing. Hackney is fit enough to play on the wing for Leicester and Garth makes his league debut at tight-head prop.

**London Irish v Bath**  
The only significant Irish absentee is Saunders at scrum half. Pegler (ex-Wasps) and McFarland (ex-Saracens) make their league debut. Bath prefer Hogg to Cronin at lock with Swift returning to the wing and Robinson, the captain, to flanker.

**Nottingham v Bristol**  
Wayne Kiford is full back for Nottingham in the absence on holiday of Hodgkinson while Langley replaces the injured Gray at lock. Bristol move Panther to stand-off and Hickey comes into the front row.

## Davies goes back to grass roots in search of a No. 8

By a SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ALAN Davies will expand his job as the Wales coach when he watches his first live Heineken League game at Neath today. Since he took over as caretaker coach for Wales' World Cup programme on August 1, Davies has been unable to watch any club rugby.

That will all change at The Gnoll, home of the reigning first division champions, when Davies witnesses the local derby clash with Swansea. "I'm not going to watch all 30 players, many of whom I already know a lot about, but I'm very interested in the two No. 8s," Davies said.

Both players, Stuart Davies, of Swansea, and Steve Williams, the Wales Under-21 captain, of Neath, are exactly the type of players who could force their way into the five nations' championship.

As well as spotting new talent, Davies wants to lay the foundations for a strong partnership between himself and the leading club coaches.

"I've set up a meeting with all the first division coaches," he said. "We have to decide whether we want a national, autocratic system like they have in England, or whether you have a partnership between the clubs and the national team. My belief is we have to have the latter."

"There are three main areas I want to work on with the coaches: getting players to



Alan Davies: in the field

pass quickly; teaching forwards to work on their passing, ball retention in contact and ball delivery; and ensuring players are as fit as possible, both mentally and physically."

Neath have been the best practitioners of most of those elements over the last few seasons, and Swansea have not won at The Gnoll since October 1981.

While Davies is in the west, Robert Norster will be watching Postypool battle Bridgend in Gwent, where the Bridgend half backs, Robert Howley and Aled Williams, are playing well enough to warrant international consideration.

Cardiff have to overcome having lost their opening league game at Swansea last weekend, and then Alan Phillips, their senior coach, two days ago, before they take on Newport at the Arms Park, while Newport have ground to make up at home against Postypool if they are to be considered title contenders.

## Campaign details are explained to board

By DAVID HANDS

BRIAN Moore, the England hooker and pack leader, adopted business mode on Thursday evening when he met representatives of the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) to go through the fine print of the promotional scheme established this season by the England squad.

Moore, accompanied by Bob Rogers, from the Rugby Football Union, and Robert Dodds, of the Parallel Media Group, the players' commercial advisers, explained to the IRFB standing committee on amateurism the principles behind the "Run with the Ball" campaign which, providing it finds favour with the game's authorities, could act as a blueprint for other countries.

"It was a good opportunity to go through the ins and outs and I think we answered every question satisfactorily," Moore said. "I would be very disgruntled if they could find anything against it."

Every detail of the scheme was available, when re-

quested, to the IRFB before last week, but Rogers said that the meeting on Thursday had set an excellent precedent. "Before they make their ruling they have met with the concerned parties," he said. "There's nothing worse than making the paperwork available only for a decision to be reached without consultation."

Moore's impression was that Russell Thomas, of New Zealand, and Sir Ewart Bell, of Ireland, the IRFB representatives who will discuss their findings with Norbert Byrne, of Australia, before making a recommendation to the board council, were primarily concerned to ensure that players' off-the-field earnings were commensurate with the activity undertaken, and to preserve the holly-debated area of linkage, that players' paid activities should not be linked directly with the game. Whatever ruling is reached will be binding on other unions.



Prize catch: Murphy feels very much at home among the Huddersfield barracuda

## Murphy delves deep to find his niche

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THERE is precious little glamour at Fartown. Through the rusting shoal of barracuda guarding the entrance — the club used to be known as The Barracudas — past the dishevelled cricket pavilion, the cinder track leads to the back of an ancient wooden stand. Alex Murphy is ensconced in a Portakabin underneath, headquarters of Huddersfield rugby league club. "Welcome to Steptoe's yard," he said.

In this bleak vista, Murphy reckons to have found Utopia: the opportunity to coach and run a club on his terms. Murphy has rediscovered the old fire that once ignited a

scrum half still without peer. Huddersfield cannot boast a spare penny, and have only the minimum of playing talent, but it is here, in the third division, that Murphy, aged 52, believes he can produce one final coaching masterpiece by restoring glories to the game's birthplace.

"I've got full control," he said. "I do it the way I want. At other clubs, even at St Helens and Wigan, they asked me to do a job and when I got there they started pulling ladders from underneath me. Two months at Huddersfield has given me more satisfaction than I've had in years. Yes, I think I can build them into a great club again."

Murphy is already transforming a town deprived of rugby league success for three decades. The septa-tinted picture of the 1961-2 championship team stares back at him as he reflects on six wins from seven games which have taken Huddersfield to third place, and rebuffed the usual 600-strong attendance.

The Regal Trophy visit by the first division leaders, St Helens, tomorrow, is an early chance for Murphy to show off his "minimalist" design on a grander scale, and against his beloved home club.

"I want my lads to play a typical British game that's about enjoyment, entertainment, not this obsession with

the tackle and game-plan," he said. "People go on about Australian coaches. Anybody can go to Wigan and Castleford with loads of money and quality players and get success."

"I'd like to see one of them coach from the bottom and work up with no money and bad players. Instinct comes from within, but you can instil it."

"No lad will ever get a rollicking from me for going out there and not being afraid of trying the things he can do."

Murphy and his assistant, Terry Flanagan, reckon they have a nucleus of a side that could be challenging for first-division status within

three years, given proper funding. As ever, enterprise on the field is not sufficient alone. Huddersfield's future hangs by the gossamer threads of benevolence shown by a few local businessmen, who saved the club three years ago. Murphy is busy rattling the collection tin around local firms.

Inside the ground, he points to a sign singing out Huddersfield's seven championship and six Challenge Cup victories. Murphy recites the testimony he is seeking. "Spectators with their pride back who can say, 'Alex, they were no good when you got 'em, but they're back now'. That'll do nicely."

## SNOOKER

## Morgan makes amends

By PHILIP YATES

DARREN Morgan's disappointment at narrowly failing to secure a wild-card entry into the 1992 Benson and Hedges Masters was partially lifted by an encouraging start to his UK Open campaign at Preston Guildhall yesterday.

Morgan was upset by his 9-3 reversal against Ken Doherty in the final of the Benson and Hedges championship in Glasgow on Thursday. His despondency was amplified by the award to Doherty of a place in the elite Masters field at Wembley Conference Centre in February.

However, Morgan, the Welsh professional champion, was given little time to mull over his defeat. Exhausted by the long drive from Scotland, and not getting to bed until the early hours, he appeared extremely vulnerable as his UK Open fourth-round match with Joe Johnson, the former world champion, began.

Yet against all the odds, Morgan, the world No. 33, enjoyed a total transformation to the form which he displayed

against Doherty. He compiled breaks of 79, 48, 50, 48 and 76 to establish a commanding 6-1 lead in the best-of-17 frame contest.

It appeared certain that Morgan would increase his advantage by adding the eighth and last frame of the session. He led 47-17 but missed a simple red to allow Johnson in for a 39 clearance to pink for 6-2.



Morgan: strong start

Morgan, aged 25, from Cwmfelinfach, admitted to a degree of surprise at his favourable overnight position.

"When you lose a match, no matter where it is, you normally need a few days to get over it," he said. "As luck would have it, I didn't. I played well."

Gary Wilkinson, struggling to retain his world No. 5 status, is in danger of becoming the first leading casualty of the event. He resumes today against Stuart Reedman, a first-season professional, from Romsford, facing a 5-3 deficit.

Bob Chaperon, the Canadian who captured the 1990 British Open title as a 200-1 outsider, slipped 6-2 down against Andrew Cairns, of Blackpool, even though he made the first century break of the tournament — a 107 in the eighth frame.

RESULTS: Fourth round: A Cairns (Eng) beats R Chaperon (Can), 6-2; P Francisco (SA) beats S Ali (Eng), 6-2; G Hogg (Wales) beats D Rice (Eng), 5-3; R Lawler (Eng) beats D Mounsey (Wales), 6-2; S Newbury (Wales) beats S Hoggard (Eng), 5-3; T Jones (Eng) beats C Thorburn (Can), 5-3; S Reedman (Eng) beats G Wilkinson (Eng), 5-3; D Morgan (Wales) beats J Johnson (Eng), 6-2.

## FENCING

## Germans send best to retain Eden Cup

By a SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GERMANY look set to dominate the Eden Cup for the fourth year running at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre starting today. Their 21-strong entry includes Jan-Eric Rauhhaus, fourth placed last year, and Wolfgang Wiesand who was placed ninth. The competition is one of the toughest held in Britain. Although the competitors are under 20, the 1989 winner, Alexander Koch, of Germany, became the senior world champion the same season.

Of the other countries, Italy will be looking to get back into the medals and are fielding a stronger team including Alberto Franchini and Filippo Pesce, both extremely effective fencers.

The French also will hope to find form after several years in the wilderness, while the Swedes will have their work

cut out to retain a presence at the final. Belgium, the United States, Canada, Switzerland, Portugal and others will all be trying for World Cup points, but cannot expect to pose a serious threat to Germany.

The British entry of 20 includes some real talent and eyes will be on Khaled Beydoun, of Sussex House, and Luke Mugliston, of Westminster School. These two are among the brightest hopes for future British success.

Both have achieved good results this season especially at Krefeld and Lyon. Nevertheless, first-class performances are needed if they are to achieve their goal of places on the senior squad. Altogether around 120 of the world's leading young men representing 14 countries are set to battle it out for the magnificent crystal trophy.

## SCHOOLS RUGBY

## Uttley watches the delayed Harrow blackout

By MICHAEL STEVENSON

ETON and Harrow met on the rugby field in 1907. Until last weekend, they had not met in the intervening 84 years, when Harrow avenged their initial 12-0 defeat with convincing 22-7 victory. This was the first block fixture between the schools. Harrow won the war as well as the first XV battle, watched by their coach, Roger

Uttley, with success in 14 of the 18 games played.

Wellington College, having lost their first match to Haileybury (6-3), won their next six; their most recent success was to make Radley taste defeat (10-7) for the first time since 1989. Wellington also beat Radley 17-4 in the 21-match marathon. Haileybury, enjoying an

outstanding season, travelled north recently, where they found Loretto in commanding form. Loretto led 16-6 at the interval and won (20-10).

Two defeats by Trinity, Croydon (12-0) and St Paul's (20-13) do not mar Whitgift's fine record of six wins from eight matches. Points have been scarce, however, and they have only scored 83 to 64

conceded. The results are a credit to an inexperienced team, to which just two colours return.

Rugby have really got into their stride, following early setbacks. Recently they have seen off Nottingham HS (50-18), St Edward's Oxford (13-10), King Henry VII, Croydon (30-0) and Arundel (30-9). With four games remaining, Babajide Kayode, has scored 20 tries. RCS Lancaster celebrated their first win against Sedburgh for 20 years (10-6); they lost to Merchant Taylors, Crosby (30-17) and Barrow Castle (10-9), but their six wins include three on tour against the cox teams of Noisy Le Grand (46-6), Virey Châtillon (11-6), and Racing Club (8-4).



# Different views from two sides of town

If there is one thing that a supporter enjoys more than a local derby, it is no derby at all. Sweet as victory may be for the winners of this weekend's domestic disputes in Manchester and Sheffield, it does not compare with the sheer ecstasy of seeing your neighbour relegated, preferably as often as possible.

In Steel City, such desire for disparity has been satisfied more often than not since the second world war, and this season threatens to see another parting of the ways for Wednesday and United. That is unless the latter reproduce last season's finish, when their form over the second half of the season was second only to Arsenal, the champions.

The fortunes of the two Sheffield clubs could hardly have followed more diverse paths this season. While United have been stricken with the same impotence which seemed certain to lay them to waste last season, Wednesday, on their return to the first division, have played with a style which has confirmed the belief that their relegation two seasons ago was a mistake.

Or was it? Not according to Dave Bassett, the Sheffield

United manager. "I think Wednesday's relegation and our promotion was the best thing that could have happened to them," he said without meaning to sound ironic. "It shook them rigid throughout. It opened them up."

"Suddenly they started spending money on players and increased the wages. Until it was taken away from them, they didn't realise what they had."

Some of Bassett's observations might have been construed as a clear warning to his own club of the fine which awaits the apathetic.

Not that there has been a reluctance on the part of the Bramall Lane club to spend money. They have not had any to spend. What they do have belongs to the bank, who clawed back some more of it when Bassett was instructed to sell Tony Agana, one of his few prize "assets", to Notts County for £750,000 — as one does a week for the biggest derby in one's city for 23 years.

"You would expect in times like this with the security we've got at Sheffield United, that you'd get support in that direction," Bassett said.

"But it wasn't forthcoming



Sheffield is steered for the first meeting of its two football clubs in the first division for 23 years tomorrow. Clive White talks to the rival managers, Trevor Francis, left, and Dave Bassett

because everybody's running scared."

Bassett does not believe in fairy godmothers, however. That is, unless they happen to reside in Blackburn. Sam Hammam convinced him a long time ago that they do not exist. Yet Bassett has suffered disillusionment. The first division has not been quite the promised land that he was led to believe it would be.

"Three years ago, when we were in the third division, the fans were telling me, 'If we get into the first division, United will be playing to packed houses at Bramall Lane'. Well, it hasn't really happened. In fact, this season the fans have become a bit blasé about the first division. They've been picking their noses."

Tomorrow's match was a 31,500 sellout a week ago, but

Bassett was so piqued by the poor turnout at two recent Cup ties, when he reckoned that Wednesday grossed about £100,000 more from their respective games, that he threatened to resign.

"When I first came here we were in the third division and Wednesday were in the first. If I'd promised them that in three years time they would have a derby match in the first division, they would have given me the freedom of Sheffield," Bassett said.

That honour this season is more likely to be bestowed on Bassett's opposite number (in more ways than one), Trevor Francis. The former England international, who was considered too nice or too rusty for management, depending, it seemed, on whether he played for

you or with you, has been an unqualified hit at Hillsborough as successor to Ron Atkinson.

Francis is far too pleasant a person not to have taken the criticism to heart, and far too sensible not to have mended his ways after those 11 turbulent months at Queen's Park Rangers, when he over-zealously forced his own high standards of professionalism down the throats of players who had been raised a different way. Such changes take time and required a degree of tolerance which Francis did not possess in his first managerial post. Though he has taken over at the helm at Hillsborough two years earlier than the Wednesday board had intended, he has retained an even keel, which is in stark contrast to the way in which he rocked the boat so vigorously last time. Even when without the influential David Hirst and John Sheridan for extended periods this season, Wednesday have never deviated from their course. If the charisma of Atkinson has not quite rubbed off on Francis, perhaps some of his ability to get the best out of players has.

Not that Francis is repentant about everything. "There were

mistakes at QPR, but I got a lot right as well," he said. "My basic principles remain the same. I have learned from my experiences. I would be a fool to say I haven't."

The indoctrinations of Brian Clough have seeped through in his transfer dealings at Wednesday. For Chris Woods and Paul Warhurst, one could read Peter Shilton and Des Walker. It has always been Clough's belief that success is founded upon firm defence, in particular an exceptional goalkeeper and a quick centre half. Nigel Jenson, his latest signing, necessitated a bit of bartering with the guru himself.

Just as Francis became the first £1 million footballer in Britain when Clough signed him from Birmingham City 12 years ago, so Woods became Sheffield's first £1 million footballer when Francis signed him from Rangers.

"I thought it would be a big boost for the city to have England's No. 1 goalkeeper," Francis said. "Mind you, we haven't had as many clean sheets as I would like, but if you were looking for all-round perfection, we would be top of the League."

United can be grateful for small mercies.

## Holt may boost Games hopes

By DAVID MILLER

JOHN Holt, for 15 years the general secretary of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), is expected to offer his resignation to the council at its meeting in Stuttgart tomorrow. He could now become a candidate as first full-time secretary-general of the Commonwealth Games Federation, after John Major's financial guarantee for that group's headquarters in London.

News of Holt's intention broke in Italy, though it has been no secret that he was considering the possibility of a change of direction. It is believed likely that he will initially join the committee of Manchester's bid to host the 2000 Olympic Games, to which his international experience would bring valuable and visible credibility.

There have been differences between Holt and Primo Nebiolo, the IAAF president, but I understand they are parting on good terms. Each acknowledges the achievements of the other in the huge expansion of athletics over the past ten years. Nebiolo's ambition to raise the profile and competitive breadth of the sport, Holt's supervision of the London office, which has provided the administrative expertise.

Holt was gratified when the Congress in Tokyo two months ago voted strongly in favour of retaining the headquarters in London. At the meeting of Commonwealth heads of government in Harare, Major was among the leaders seeking to strengthen Commonwealth sport. The prime minister might now turn his attention to two other initiatives that can sustain or raise British prestige: the IAAF headquarters, and the Manchester bid.

The rent-free accommodation for the Commonwealth Games Federation office will be provided at Walkden House at Euston, London, with a £100,000 grant from the Sports Council. This is an important step in upholding Britain's leadership in Commonwealth sport. For the British government similarly to subsidise the IAAF headquarters — a trifling amount — through the Sports Council is equally relevant in the international politics of sport.

So is the financial backing of the Manchester 2000 bid. The next meeting with Major is scheduled for December 15, when Manchester will be providing details on information requested by the prime minister at their previous meeting. With Berlin's bid in disarray, Manchester has the chance to lead the European contenders, ahead of Milan, against the challenge from Beijing, Sydney and Brasilia.

It seems that Major is the first British prime minister to sense the public relations value to any country of a prominent sports profile. It is equally important that Sir Arthur Gold, the chairman of the British Olympic Association, should be showing total commitment to the bid. There has been a feeling that both he and Eileen Gray, the vice-chairman, are sceptical about Manchester's chances. With John Holt giving his personal advocacy alongside Bob Scott, Manchester's credibility should climb.

## Small clubs girded to provide shocks

By WALTER GAMMIE

THE ritual of the first round of the FA Cup demands that, at tea time today, the nation will warm to a tale or two of lofty Football League clubs humbled by disrespectful non-League coullins. Missing, however, will be the teasing prospect of drawn matches evolving into the marionettes of replay upon replay that have decorated past competitions.

For the first time, FA Cup ties will be decided by penalties should a replay and extra time fail to supply a winner. "The police have said they require ten days' notice of cup games which, if taken to its logical conclusion, would mean we might never finish the competition," Steve Clark, the FA competitions secretary, said.

"We don't want it. The police wouldn't want to be cast as the villains of the piece and I'm sure if you did a survey of police stations up and down the country, they'd say they'd have no problem in putting on matches with three



days' notice. It's a matter of Home Office regulations and a national agreement with the police."

Two seasons ago, Welling United took a second round Cup tie to three replays before bowing out to Reading. Nicky Brigden, the Welling manager, said: "In the Cup you play until you're beaten, now it will be taken to penalties. I think it's a backward step. I prefer playing a replay in two or three days. Although it's being done for safety reasons — and I wouldn't want anybody to be involved in an accident — I think it's being over-cautious."

"There was something fantastic about part-time players travelling time and again after a day's work and taking a League club and their full-time players to the limit."

Welling travel to Leyton Orient today as seasoned Cup campaigners, having reached

the first round for the five seasons that they have been in the GM Vauxhall Conference, losing to 1-0 Blackburn Rovers in the third round and beating Gillingham among their other exploits. They have an in-form forward pairing of Gary Abbott and Terry Robbins and an experienced backline in former Football League players, Paul Barron, the goalkeeper, and Les Barry, and Nigel Ransom, the captain, a one-club wonder of 18 seasons' service.

Brigden, however, calculates: "Seven or eight times out of ten, you'd expect the third division team to beat a Conference side. Let's just hope we will be one of the right or nine times." Such has been the narrowing of standards between the Conference and the lower divisions — Barnet, who play Tiverton, of the Great Mills League at Underhill, have proved the point by racing to the top of the fourth division — that some non-League sides will start with the odds in their favour.

Sometimes form cannot be denied. Enfield, under player-manager, Graham Pearce, a Cup finalist with Brighton in 1983, are unbeaten in 18 matches this season. They travel to the Recreation ground to play Aldershot who have not won there since August 31. Wotton Albion, of the Conference, take on Halifax, of the fourth division, with Peter O'Brien, the manager, saying: "People tell me that we're going into this match as favourites. I don't mind that. It shows the gap is getting closer. There aren't any real shocks any more."

There are matches that remain true to the tradition of non-League clubs sitting at windmills. Marlow's trip to West Bromwich Albion fits firmly into that category, as does Lincoln United, the Central Midlands League club, and their visit to Huddersfield.



Management partnership: McCartney, left, and Shoulder plot Gretna's plans for upsetting Rochdale

## WATCH BY MATCH GUIDE TO THE FIRST DIVISION

### A Villa v Notts County

Villa, looking to extend a four-match winning roll, must choose between Atkinson, who is fit again, and Olney, who has scored twice in his absence. Agana, signed from Sheffield United last week, makes his debut for County alongside Riddett, once of Villa. Yates is fit to resume but a decision on Palmer's ankle injury is deferred. Chris Short stands by.

### Chelsea v Norwich

Chelsea, who kept their clean sheets following Curd's return to the side, will be without the England under-21 central defender, who injured a knee playing for his country in Poland. Boyd, who was pulled out of Scotland's European championship tie because of this, is also not fit to resume. Norwich, who have scored three goals in their last four games, are looking to recover from a stomach strain but Blackwell must rest his groin injury for six weeks. Barlow reverts to midfield.

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Trevor Francis is considering restoring himself in a three-man Wednesday attack alongside Hirst and Williams in the first Sheffield derby for 12 seasons. United, still without Desha, are looking for a comeback, because of glandular fever must now also cope without Agana, who has been sold to Notts County. At least they are five points better off than they were this time last season.

### Oldham v Arsenal

Arsenal need to turn around a dismal record at Boundary Park, where they have lost on their last three visits, if they are to step up their championship challenge following their exit from Europe. Gould could start his first game of the season and there is a chance that Carter could make his long-awaited debut, with Campbell out of action again. Fleming has recovered from a leg injury and is available to Oldham.

### Tottenham v Luton

David Platt could not possibly think of a better place to secure his first away win in the League this season, though achieving it will be another matter. There will definitely be no happy returns for Grey, the striker who Platt bought from Tottenham; he has been ruled out with a knee tendon injury. Hughes is also absent with shin problems but at least Pearce returns from injury. Tottenham will be without the suspended Durie — Welsh deputises — and possibly Stewart, who has a groin strain.

### Nottingham Forest v Coventry

Coventry may know the secret of losing Arsenal but a lot of good it has done them in other recent games. After five defeats in six matches, they will welcome the return of Borrowdale, Altherton and Gynn. The good news for Forest is that Clough, who has been out for seven weeks with a thigh strain, is likely to be on the substitutes' bench. Kaine is fit to resume after missing four games but Black has a thigh injury and is replaced by Woon.

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# THE TIMES SPORT

Porterfield seeks replacement for Durie

## Chelsea consider making £1.5m bid for Johnston

By CLIVE WHITE

MAURICE Johnston, the former Celtic forward who caused considerable ill feeling when Graeme Souness signed him for Rangers two years ago, could be returning south to Chelsea. Ian Porterfield, the manager, is awaiting permission from Ken Bates, his chairman, to formulate a bid for the player, who is valued at £1.5m.

Chelsea have been searching for a new partner for Kerry Dixon ever since they sold Gordon Durie to Tottenham Hotspur for £2.2 million before the start of the season. Johnston, who once played for Graham Taylor at Watford, became a candidate when he failed to command a regular place in the Rangers team this season.

Rangers paid £1.5 million for the Scottish international when they bought him from Nantes, the French club, but Johnston, aged 28, has found himself surplus to requirements at Ibrox this season.

Porterfield denied he had already made a bid for Johnston. "The chairman only got back from holiday on Thursday," he said. "But Johnston is one of the players we have been watching."

The Chelsea chairman, however, has other financial considerations looming: the Stamford Bridge valuation is due to be assessed by an independent arbitrator next month and Bates is hoping to purchase the site from the

property development company who leased it to the club. George Graham, the Arsenal manager, expects to be unsuccessful in his attempt to sign Jan Wouters, the Dutch international and Ajax captain, who he believes will probably join his former Ajax colleague, Soren Lerby, at Bayern Munich. Because of his age — 31 — Wouters, who will be out of contract after tomorrow, would cost only about £500,000.

Rather more optimistic of getting his man is Trevor Francis, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, who has agreed terms with Leyton Orient for the transfer of Chris Bart-Williams, a 17-year-old midfielder, for £375,000 plus Chris Turner, the former Manchester United goalkeeper, who has been on loan to the Brisbane Road club.

Norwich City have turned down an offer of £500,000 from Queen's Park Rangers for Lee Power, their young striker. Power, who was born in Lewisham, is keen to return to London but Norwich value him at £750,000.

West Ham United were given a timely lift before their televised game against Liverpool tomorrow when Billy Bonds, their manager, signed a two-year extension to his contract which takes him up to July 1994. "The club has got big plans for the future and I am pleased to be a part of them," Bonds said.

On a day when one of Bonds's playing contemporaries, Ray Wilkins, announced that he was ready to make a comeback from serious injury, Terry Butcher, his former England colleague, virtually resigned himself to never playing again.

Butcher, aged 32, who has made six League appearances since Coventry City signed him from Rangers for £400,000, will seek confirmation from specialists about his arthritic knee over the next few days.

Paul Gascoigne, who remains confident that he will pass his medical come next May and become a Lazio player, insists that he is a more serious individual: since watching a video of the operation on his shattered knee, "Having seen the damage I did makes me realise how much football means to me. Perhaps I am more serious now."

An Italian tribunal has quashed the one-match ban on Marco van Basten, the AC Milan forward and Dutch international, after watching a video replay of his alleged assault on an AS Roma player recently. It proved that it was a case of mistaken identity and van Basten will now be available for the important league match against Sampdoria tomorrow.

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Club news, page 37

## Nakajima's sparkling form leaves his rivals gasping

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN TOKYO

TOMMY Nakajima, associated in British minds with the sands of the Road Hole bunker, was in scintillating sub-par form in the second round of the Visa Taiheyo Club Masters, not far from here yesterday. A 65, seven under par, gave him a total of 135, nine under: three strokes clear of his fellow countryman, Yoshinori Kaneko.

The leading foreign player was Roger MacKay, from Perth, on five under, with Jose-Maria Olazabal, the defending champion, on four

under, alongside Peter Senior. Nick Faldo had another frustrating day and finished on level par after a 73.

Nakajima first set the scoreboard operators shrieking with delight with an eagle three at the 3rd, where he holed out of a bunker from 25 yards. He followed that with birdies at the 5th, 6th and 7th, and added two more at the 10th and 11th. It was all a far cry from that nine at the 17th at St Andrews in the Open Championship, which led to the Road Hole bunker being

rechristened "the sands of Nakajima".

Much to the chagrin of the crowd and the relief of the rest of the field, the touch departed at the 12th, where Nakajima, the Japanese Open champion, missed a birdie chance from seven feet. He dropped a shot at the 13th, where he took three putts, and thereafter he had to work hard for his pars. A birdie four at the last was the icing on Mount Fuji, largely invisible behind the clouds yesterday.

The 18th, however, was not a happy hole for Faldo, one of Nakajima's partners. The double Open and Masters champion took six, after hitting a three-wood into a saucer-shaped greenside bunker. It was flatish, with no great depth, but it was on a slope, running down towards the green, the pin very close to it. Being ultra-delicate, Faldo left his first shot in the bunker, and his second, from under the lip, on the fringe of the green. 15 feet from the hole. He took two putts, and a good start, with birdies at the 2nd and 3rd, had been done in by that bogey and a double bogey at the 9th.

Olazabal, still suffering from his bad neck, but not quite as much, got out of a bunker at the last for a birdie four and a round of 71. Philip Walton, joint first-round leader, had a 78.



**Her dad hates 'bloody Christmas'. She absolutely dreads it.**

For thousands of children each year, Christmas becomes a nightmare. But a donation of £25 from you could help change that. It more than covers the cost of the first visit by a NSPCC Child Protection Officer to a child at risk. Please help. Send £25 - more if you can - and help make this Christmas nothing like the ones they used to know.

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ACCOUNT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
Send your donation to: Christopher Brown: Ref 921543 NSPCC  
FREEPOST, London, EC1B 1QQ. Or ring 071-342 1626.  
NAME: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
POSTCODE: \_\_\_\_\_

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EMERGENCY

CHRISTMAS APPEAL  
We never make your name and address available to commercial organisations, but from time to time we may benefit by allowing other charities to write to you. If you would prefer not to receive these communications, please tick this box ☐



Things are looking up for Jilly Curry, above, and Julia Snell: both are freestyle skiers, a curious and gravity-defying sport that has them hurtling down mountainsides upside down, back to front, and at great speed. This is gymnastics on skis.

Both women are well placed to win Britain's first skiing medals at the Winter Olympics in Albertville in February, and both are confident of success. Although

freestyle consists of three disciplines, only one — the moguls — will be a full medal sport in France. But for both Curry and Snell, a medal is a medal whatever the classification.

"It's my Olympics," Snell said. "Freestyle has been accepted by the British Olympic Association as a full Olympic sport, we'll be at the opening ceremony, and we've had the best back-up we've ever had."

## Stich learns lesson the hard way

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE  
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT  
IN FRANKFURT

MICHAEL Stich has found out the hard way that winning the favour of the German public is more difficult than winning a Wimbledon title. If Stich was guilty of over-reaction after his defeat by Boris Becker in the ATP championships in Frankfurt, he was left in little doubt that the role of pretender to the throne is his for as long as Becker dictates.

"From my experience here, I don't think I will be accepted until Boris stops playing tennis," Stich said. "When 8,000 out of 8,500 are cheering for Boris, I think it is very, very unfair."

It also says something about the complacency of the German tennis followers that the introduction of Stich as the

"Wimbledon champion" was greeted by more whistles than cheers. If a Lacanian Wimbledon champion ever played a Kentish Australian Open champion in Maidstone, the joy would surely be universal not regional?

Stich admitted after his 7-6, 6-3 defeat that he was far more interested in the popularity contest than the tennis match and he was genuinely shaken by a crowd who, while never overtly hostile, made quite plain their preference for the local boy.

"For sure, there is more sympathy for him. I accept that," he said. "But it is not a good feeling when you are out there as a German knowing the people are against you." Though newspaper polls had indicated the strength of Becker's claim to the hearts and minds of the German people, Stich had clearly mis-

read the signs and, once he had lost the first set tie-break, he began to look very tired and dispirited.

It might take him some time to accept that, no matter how many grand slam titles he adds to his collection next year, no matter how many

matches he wins, he will never be the people's champion. "Ivan Lendl has never been able to lay claim to that title nor has he ever courted it. But, 12 years after his first Masters, he remains as consistent and competitive as ever in court, and as cut off it."

Journalist: "Ivan, when were you last as satisfied with your game?" Lendl: "I don't know. I'm a bit old, so I don't remember." Journalist: "I don't believe that." Lendl: "If you don't believe me, don't ask me." Every one a winner. Long before the pocket calculators had sorted out an opponent for him, Lendl had booked his place in the semi-finals today by winning his three group matches without dropping a set or his service. "I am not complaining about my game," he said, which is his version of "Over the moon, Brian".

The first time Lendl played the Masters, in January 1981, his group consisted of Harold Solomon, Guillermo Vilas and Jimmy Connors. Lendl beat the first two, and then, some say conveniently, lost to Connors so that he faced Gene Mayer not Bjorn Borg in the semi-finals.

Borg duly annihilated Lendl in the final but there is no Borg in this field and few would care to bet against Lendl, four months before his 32nd birthday, ending a generally disappointing year in traditional fashion.

By the time he comes back again next year — as he surely will — Lendl could be playing under the American flag alongside Jim Courier, who secured his semi-final place with a 7-6, 6-4 victory over Gey Roger last night. RESULT: Group A: J. Courier (GB) in G. Forget (F), 7-6, 6-4.

Becker: popular winner

## How greed and ignorance outbid Liverpool

SIMON BARNES  
ON SATURDAY

Genius is a strong word. It is not a word that many people have used about Craig Johnston, an Australian with barbed-wire hair who once played for Liverpool and was on the point of doing so again. But he was prevented by nothing less than his own genius.

Johnston had returned to Sydney, and he recently went back to Liverpool while on a trip to Europe to talk about possibilities of a return. "We made a deal that I would resume my career," he said. But instead, he received an offer he could not refuse for a television show he had developed based on an idea so transcendently appalling that it contains a true smack of genius.

This is a show called *The Main Event*, and is one of those programmes designed to bring greed and ignorance into the sharpest possible focus. It is a quiz contested by two teams of celebrities. Each team is based in the "lounge"

like" and — dreadful thought — "a headful of ideas for other programmes". Johnston has launched himself into orbit. Liverpool is now a long way away from *The Main Event*.

Now, megathletes Daley Thompson is a wimp. At least, compared to Indrek Kaseorg, he is. Daley has held the world decathlon record of 8,847 points since the 1984 Olympics. Kaseorg has just improved the world record for the double decathlon by nearly 400 points. This event is rather tougher than performing two standard decathlons. The first day (100 metres, long jump, shot, high jump and 400 metres) is supplemented by 200 metres hurdles, 5,000 metres, 800 metres, hammer and discus, pole vault, javelin and 1,500 metres) is boosted by 200 metres, 3,000 metres, 400 metres hurdles, triple jump

and, as a nice little bonus, 10,000 metres. Kaseorg, of Estonia, is national 400 metres champion, a decent decathlete (PB 7,549) and he now holds the double decathlon world record at 14,086.

Some find the double decathlon a little too easy. Mike Corden, a former British international, is claiming an inaugural record for 24 hours of non-stop successive decathlons. In Rotterdam last month, he performed 18 successive decathlons in a 24-hour period, scoring a total of 46,635. There is now talk of making this an annual event. What about it, Daley?

Shed shelved

More on the Great Tin Shed, a.k.a. the proposed new Arsenal stand. Arsenal's plans came up before their local council development control sub-committee this week, and it was deferred overwhelmingly on six counts. Arsenal have a

month to come up with something better, for the next sub-committee meeting on December 17. The Group for the Alternative Arsenal Stand believes it has the answer, but Arsenal themselves seem devoted to the Tin Shed concept. The Royal Fine Art Commission, approached by GAAS, blanching at the plans for the Shed, and said that a first-rate club like Arsenal should build a first-rate stand — rather than something in keeping with the second-rate design of the existing stand. But Margaret Hodge, leader of the council, has been instrumental in bringing the issue forward to a full council meeting on December 10. Some people in GAAS have suggested she cares more about Arsenal than about local residents. But perhaps she is just crazy about the Shed?

Substitution of the month: In a second division match, the Barnsley player, Archibald, was taken off. He was replaced by Bishop.

Top drawer

One of the great challenges that face mankind is getting a dirty joke past the Jockey Club. Here, prurient-minded people keep an eagle eye open for prurient suggestiveness and double entendres in the naming of any horse. I wonder what chance you would have with a name like Drop Your Drawers? A horse of that name, raced in the United States, and is now aged 12, standing at stud, and sire of 51 foals from six crops. Here are the names of some of his progeny: Drop My What, Chastreuse, Caboose, Rosy Moon, No Peeking Close The Blinds, Pullen Up, Raided Room, Kumblesett Romance, Part of the Moon, Breezy Bottom and finally, Only For The Money. Never mind the Jockey Club don't spot everything they missed. Shy Talk.